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THE PRINCIPAL  
A C T S  
OF THE  
General Assembly  
OF THE  
C H U R C H  
OF  
S C O T L A N D,

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, THE 19th DAY OF MAY 1791.

COLLECTED AND EXTRACTED FROM THE RECORDS BY THE CLERK THEREOF.



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VIA...



THE PRINCIPAL

A C T S

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH of SCOTLAND,

Begun at EDINBURGH, the 19th day of MAY 1791,  
and concluded the 30th Day of the said Month and  
Year.

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I.

The KING's Commission to DAVID Earl  
of LEVEN produced, and ordered to  
be recorded.

*Edinburgh, May 19. 1791.*

**T**HE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this NATIONAL  
CHURCH being convened and constituted,  
there was produced to them, by the Right  
Honourable DAVID Earl of LEVEN, the  
KING's Commission, sealed with the seal  
appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in  
*Scotland*, in place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making  
and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner  
and

and Representative in this Assembly ; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the Books of Assembly ;— the tenor whereof follows :

**G**EORGIUS, Dei gratia, Magnæ Britannia, Franciæ et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor : Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentis literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem Nos considerantes, quod generalis ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventus in decimum nonum diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit ; Nosque abundè cupidi, et necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem ecclesiæ generalis conventus die statuto debitè observetur, atque rebus magni momenti nos aliò vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus ; Nosque abundè satisfacti de sufficientiâ et fidelitate fidelissimi et prædilectissimi nostri consanguinei Davidis Comitæ de Leven, quod ad summum munus nostri supremi Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum ritè exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus : Noveritis igitur, Nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, tenoreque præsentium, nominare, constituere, et ordinare, memoratum, fidelissimum et prædilectissimum nostrum consanguineum Davidem Comitem de Leven, supremum nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum sacram nostram personam et auctoritatem regalem repræsentandi, nec non præsentiam nostram supplendi, et locum nostrum in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plenè adeoque libere in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius in eodem summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si nos ipsi personaliter præsentem facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula quæ dictus David Comes de Leven, in hac nostra commissione prosequenda legitimè fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, nos firmiter approbamus, et ratificamus. Insuper omnibus et singulis dicti conventus et ecclesiæ pastoribus et presbyteris cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britannia Scotiam vocatam, subditis nostris, cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum Davidem Comitem de Leven, tanquam supremum nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoscant et audiant, strictè mandamus et præcipimus : Atque hanc nostram Commissionem à dicto decimo nono die Maii, proximi incipere, et deinceps durante subsequente sessione dicti generalis conventus in vigore continuare, declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur.

In



*In cujus rei testimonium, presentibus sigillum nostrum per Unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus. Apud aulam nostram apud St. James's, vigesimo-octavo die Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo nonagesimo-primo, Regniq. nostri anno trigesimo-primo.*

*Per signaturam manu S. D. N. Regis superscriptam.*

XX

## II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the  
General Assembly, presented to them  
by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

**R**IGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well.—When We reflect upon the constant and laudable zeal which you have shewn for the promotion of sound Learning and true Religion, and upon the steady Loyalty and Attachment which you have manifested towards Our Person and Government, We have the greatest satisfaction in continuing to you Our Royal Countenance and Protection; and We feel anxious to repeat to you those assurances of Our Paternal Regard and Good Will, and of Our resolution to maintain inviolate the Rights and Privileges of the Church of Scotland, which We have expressed to you on so many former occasions.

We trust that your proceedings will be directed to the same laudable purposes as heretofore; and that you will continue your attention to such measures as are calculated for diffusing the principles of genuine Christianity, for instilling into all ranks of men an attention to Moral Duties, and an obedience to the Laws, and for promoting the general Peace and Happiness of Society; and that you will endeavour to avoid all unnecessary disputes and superfluous discussions, which may in any way tend to interrupt that harmony which We have with pleasure observed to be so long prevalent amongst you.

B

We

We have again thought fit to constitute and appoint Our Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousin, DAVID Earl of LEVEN, to be Our Commissioner, to represent Our Person and Royal Authority in the present Assembly, being assured that he must continue to be acceptable to you, as well from his eminent virtues and merits, as from that experience and knowledge which he has acquired in your concerns, having so frequently administered the duties of this high and important Office.

It remains for Us only to express Our anxiety, that your proceedings may continue to be conducted with moderation and discretion, and that charity, unanimity, and brotherly love may prevail amongst you. And so, with Our earnest wishes for your prosperity and welfare, We bid you heartily farewell.—Given at Our Court at St James's, the 9th day of May 1791, in the 31st year of Our Reign.

By his Majesty's Command,

G R E N V I L L E.

Addressed thus :—*To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved the Moderator, Ministers and Elders of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

XX

### III.

## The General Assembly's Answer to the KING's most gracious Letter.

*May it please Your Majesty,*

**W**E have received, with the utmost respect and gratitude, the gracious letter with which Your Majesty has been pleased to honour this General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The distinguished marks of approbation with which Your Majesty has formerly vouchsafed to give us, and condescended so graciously at this time to repeat, afford us the highest satisfaction, and are to us most animating motives

motives to persevere in our zeal for promoting sound Learning and true Religion.

As we gladly embrace every opportunity of expressing our duty and affection to Your Majesty's Person, and of our firm attachment to Your mild and auspicious Government, Your gracious acceptance of those humble expressions of our loyalty and zeal, and Your assurances that we shall always meet with Your Royal Protection, and that it is Your Majesty's determination to maintain and support the Church of Scotland, as established by law, in the full and free enjoyment of all Her just Rights and Privileges, at once fill us with the most lively gratitude, and encourage us to repose the greatest confidence in Your Majesty's Goodness.

We beg leave to assure Your Majesty, that it shall be our study to direct our proceedings in future, to the same laudable purposes as heretofore, and to continue our attention to such measures as are best calculated for diffusing the principles of genuine Christianity, and for instilling into the minds of all ranks of men committed to our care, a conscientious regard to Moral Duties, and a strict obedience to the Laws; and for promoting the general peace and happiness of Society: And to give dignity and authority to our proceedings, we shall be careful to avoid all unnecessary disputes and superfluous discussions, and to maintain that harmony which hitherto has obtained Your Majesty's gracious approbation.

We consider Your Majesty's appointment of DAVID Earl of LEVEN, again to represent Your Royal Person in this Assembly, as a fresh mark of Your gracious condescension and goodness to us. His known loyalty to Your Majesty, his attachment, like that of his ancestors, to the Church of Scotland, his tender regard to the interests of Religion and Virtue, and the fidelity with which he has so frequently discharged the duties of the high and important Office which he now fills, render him most acceptable to us.

We accept of Your Majesty's Donation of one thousand pounds for the propagation of the Protestant Religion in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, as a fresh mark of Your Majesty's paternal care of all Your subjects. As we feel ourselves highly honoured in being made the instruments of Your Majesty's pious intentions, it shall be our study to fulfil them, by the most prudent and effectual application of the sum that is entrusted to us.

We

We trust that all our proceedings shall be conducted with that charity, unanimity and brotherly love, and with that moderation which Your Majesty's paternal care leads You so anxiously to desire; and we accept of Your earnest wishes for our prosperity and welfare, as a most endearing proof of Your Majesty's favour and affection.

That the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ may direct Your Majesty's Councils to the public good; That he may bless you with every domestic comfort; That he may bless the QUEEN, the PRINCE OF WALES, and all the Royal Family; That, after preserving Your Majesty long to be the Guardian of our free Constitution, and of the rights of Your people, he may call You, full of years and of glory, to the possession of an Heavenly Crown; and that he may grant to Your Royal Race, through future generations, to fill with dignity the British Throne, and to promote the interest of his Kingdom on earth, are the fervent prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient, and most loyal subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this National  
Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

*Edinburgh,*  
*May 21. 1791.* }

ROBERT SMALL, *Mod.*

## IV.

COMMISSION of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY to certain Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing Affairs referred to them.

Edinburgh, May 28. 1791. Sess. 9.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do nominate, commission and appoint the Reverend Dr ROBERT SMALL, one of the Ministers of Dundee, their Moderator : And,—From the *Presbytery of Kirkcudbright*, Mr Robert Muter at Kirkcudbright, Mr John Johnston at Crossmichael, Mr Hugh Gordon at Anwoth, *Ministers* ; John Gordon, Esq; of Carleton, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Kirkcudbright*, Horatius Cannan, Esq; of Barley :—From the *Burgh of New Galloway*, Ephraim Lockhart, Esq :—From the *Presbytery of Wigton*, Dr William Boyd at Penningham; Mr Andrew Donnan at Wigton, *Ministers* ; Dr Adam Ferguson, Professor of Mathematics, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Wigton*, George Cranston, Esq; of Dewar :—From the *Presbytery of Stranraer*, Mr John Coulter at Stranraer, Mr Peter Ferguson at Inch, *Ministers* ; Thomas Adair, Esq; of Genoch, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Stranraer*, Mr Thomas Smith, writer in Edinburgh :—From the *Presbytery of Ayr*, Mr William MacQuhae at St Quivox, Mr John Shepherd at Muirkirk, Mr William Peebles at Newton upon Ayr, Mr George Gordon at Sorn, Mr William Crawford at Straton, *Ministers* ; John Hamilton, Esq; of Bargeny, Thomas Kennedy, Esq; of Dunure, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Burgh of Ayr*, George Fergusson, Esq; advocate :—From the *Presbytery of Irvine*, Mr Thomas Maxwell at Stewartoun, Dr George Laurie at Loudon, Mr John Robertson at Kilmarnock, *Ministers* ; the Hon. Mr Patrick Boyle of Shewalton, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Paisley*, Dr John Snodgrafs at Paisley, Mr John Monteith junior, at Neilston, Mr George MacClatchie at Mearns, Mr William Hardie at Inchinnan, *Ministers* ; Mr William Carlyle, merchant in Paisley, Mr Robert Barclay, merchant there, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Presbytery of Hamilton*, Mr Michael MacCulloch at Bothwell, Mr Archibald

C

Bruce

Bruce at Shotts, Mr Hugh Mitchell at Glasford, *Ministers*; Henry Stewart, Esq; of Allanton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lanark*, Mr James MacConochie at Crawford, Mr Joseph Crichton at Carstairs, *Ministers*; Professor Archibald Arthur, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Lanark*, John Bannatyne, Esq; of Castlebank:—From the *Presbytery* of *Glasgow*, Dr William Porteous, Mr William Lockhart, Mr William Taylor, Glasgow, Mr James Furlong at Rutherglen, *Ministers*; John Christie, Esq; of Glenduffhill, Mr Robert Cowan, merchant in Glasgow, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dumbarton*, Mr James Graham at Killern, Mr John Stewart at Luss, Mr John Gillespie at Arrochar, *Ministers*; the Right Hon. the Lord President, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunoon*, Mr Archibald MacLea at Rothsay, Mr Alexander MacFarlane at Kilsfinan, *Ministers*; John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kintyre*, Mr Gertham Stuart at Kilbride in Arran, Mr Alexander Stuart at Jura and Colonsay, Mr Archibald Robertson at Kildalton in Ilay, *Ministers*; Archibald MacDonald of Sanda, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Campbeltown*, William Campbell of Fairfield, Esq; :—From the *Presbytery* of *Mull*, Mr Archibald MacColl at Tyrie, Mr Alexander Campbell at Ardnamurchan, *Ministers*; Allan MacDougall of Hayfield, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunkeld*, Mr Robert Williamson at Lethendy, Mr James-Patrick Bannerman at Cargill, Mr George Baird at Dunkeld, Mr Allan Stewart at Kirkmichael, *Ministers*; Thomas Elder, Esq; of Forneth, David Stewart, Esq; banker in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Perth*, Mr Harry Inglis at Forteviot, Mr John Inglis at Tippermuir, Mr George Chapman at Kinfauns, Mr Lewis Dunbar at Kinnoull, *Ministers*; John Caw, Esq; late Provost of Perth, Dr Hugh MacLeod, Professor of Church History in Glasgow, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Stirling*, Mr John Duncan at Alva, Mr David Dickson at Bothkennar, *Ministers*; William Morehead of Herbertshire, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Stirling*, Baillie William Anderson, *Stirling*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Auchterarder*, Mr John Scott at Muthill, Mr Colin Baxter at Monivaird, Mr Andrew Gibson at Muckart, *Ministers*; The Honourable Henry Erskine, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunblane*, Mr Patrick Graham at Aberfoil, Mr David Simpson at Tulliallan, *Ministers*; William MacLauchlan, Esq;

Esq; of Auchentroig, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Dunfermline*, Mr James Reid at Beath, Mr David Balfour at Torryburn, Mr Peter Primrose at Dalgety, *Ministers* ; John Adam, Esq; of Maryburgh, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Kirkcaldy*, Mr David Swan at Scoonie, Mr John Thomson at Markinch, Mr George Gib at Wemyss, *Ministers* ; James Townsend Oswald of Dunkeir, Esq; *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Kirkcaldy*, Mr Andrew Inglis junior, merchant in Kirkcaldy :—From the *Burgh of Burntisland*, Mr James Reid, schoolmaster in Burntisland :—From the *Presbytery of Cupar*, Mr Robert Bogie at Logie, Mr Robert MacCulloch at Dairfie, Mr Andrew Ireland at Moonzie, Mr Thomas Stewart at Newburgh, *Ministers* ; Mr Thomas Campbell, Mr David Simpson at Dunboig, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Burgh of Cupar*, Major John Melvill of Cairnie :—From the *Presbytery of St Andrew's*, Mr John Mair at Cameron, Mr Thomas Kettle at Leuchars, Mr James Nairne at Pittenweem, Mr Andrew Bell, at Craill, *Ministers* ; Lieut. Col. Alexander Monypenny of Pitmilley, Professor John Cook, St Andrew's, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Burgh of St Andrew's*, Dr Andrew Duncan, physician in Edinburgh :—From the *University of St Andrew's*, Dr George Hill, Professor of Divinity in the New College, St Andrew's :—From the *Burgh of Craill*, Mr Thomas Weir, writer in Edinburgh :—From the *Burgh of Anstruther-Easter*, Mr Laurence Adamson, preacher of the gospel at Kilconquhar :—From the *Burgh of Anstruther-Wester*, Mr William MacCormick, late merchant in North Carolina, now residing in Edinburgh :—From the *Burgh of Kilrenny*, Mr Henry-David Hill, Professor of Greek in the University of St Andrew's :—From the *Presbytery of Meigle*, Mr James Ogilvy at Eassly, Mr Alexander Small at Newtyle, Dr James Playfair at Meigle, *Ministers* ; Sir William Ramsay of Banff, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Forfar*, Mr David Fernie at Kinnettles, Mr John Webster at Inverarity, *Ministers* ; Alexander Watson, Esq; younger of Turin, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Forfar*, Robert Graham of Fintry, Esq; :—From the *Presbytery of Dundee*, Mr Andrew Hally at Lundie and Foulis, Mr David Spence at Kinnaird, *Ministers* ; Mr Patrick Smith, merchant in Dundee, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Aberbrothock*, Mr William Milligan at Kirkden, Mr David Sim at Barry, *Ministers* ; Mr Thomas Milne, merchant in Canongate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Aberbrothock*, Mr Thomas Duncan, writer

writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery of Brechin*, Mr Alexander Peter at Logie-Pert, Mr John Gillanders at Fern, Mr Andrew Hutton at Edzell, *Ministers*; James Wauchope of Edmonston, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Montrose*, Adam Gillies, Esq; advocate:—From the *Presbytery of Fordoun*, Mr William Walker at St Cyrus, Mr David Forbes at Laurencekirk, Mr James Leslie at Fordoun, *Ministers*; Mr John Burnet, advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Aberdeen*, Dr John Brown at Newhills, Dr Alexander Gerard, Professor of Divinity King's College, Aberdeen, Mr William Stronach at Newmachar, Mr George Morison at Banchory Devonick, *Ministers*; William Robertson, Esq; advocate, Procurator for the Church, John Gordon, Esq; of Craig, *Ruling Elders*:—From *King's College, Aberdeen*, Mr Roderick MacLeod, Sub-principal:—From the *Presbytery of Kincardine o'Neil*, Mr Robert Michie at Cluny, Mr William Maitland at Tarland, Mr Thomas Gordon at Aboyne, *Ministers*; William MacDonald of Rineaton, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Alford*, Mr Robert Lumsden at Kildrummy, Mr George Donaldson at Kinethmont, Mr James Reid at Auchendoir, *Ministers*; James Gordon Esq; younger of Craig, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Ellon*, Mr William Duff at Foveran, Mr William Paterson at Logie, *Ministers*; Professor Thomas Gordon, Aberdeen, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Garioch*, Mr Thomas Shepherd at Bourty, Mr John Shand at Chapel of Garioch, Mr Robert Shepherd at Daviot, *Ministers*; Mr William Gordon, younger of Rothney, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Deer*, Mr John Craigie at St Fergus, Mr Hugh Taylor, Assistant Minister at New Deer, Mr William Anderson at Strichen, *Ministers*; Mr John Taylor, clerk to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Turriff*, Mr Robert Duff at King Edward, Mr George Sangster at Alvah, *Ministers*; Mr James Morison, junior, merchant in Leith, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Fordyce*, Mr Robert Grant at Cullen, Mr Robert Ogilvie at Orduquhill, *Ministers*; Mr George Andrew, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Cullen*, Mr John Gordon, junior of Cairnfield, advocate:—From the *Presbytery of Strathbogie*, Mr John Cooper at Glas, Mr Alexander Angus at Botriphnie, *Ministers*; the Hon. Mr Baron Gordon, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Aberlour*, Mr James Grant at Inveraven, Mr Francis Leslie at Boharm, *Ministers*; Isaac Grant, Esq;  
of



of Hilton, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Abernethy*, Mr Lewis Grant at Cromdale, Mr John Grant at Kirkmichael, *Ministers*; Dr Gregory Grant, physician in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Elgin*, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr James Gillan at Speymouth, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Gordon, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh* of *Elgin*, William Scott, Esq; banker in Edinburgh :—From the *Presbytery* of *Forres*, Mr John Hoyes at Kinloss, Mr John MacDonald at Edinkelly, *Ministers*; Robert Urquhart of Birds Yards, Esq; *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Nairn*, Mr Hugh Calder at Croy, Mr John Morison at Nairn, *Ministers*; Alexander Grant, Esq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Inverness*, Mr Robert Rose at Inverness, Mr John Mackelican at Durris, *Ministers*; Robert Mackintosh, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Glanerney*, Mr Alexander Wood at Rosemarkie, Mr Robert Smith at Cromarty, *Ministers*; Convener John Lindsay, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Tain*, Mr John Mathison at Kilmuir Easter, Mr Alexander Munro at Edderton, *Ministers*; Charles Ross, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh* of *Tain*, Robert Colt, Esq; of Auldham :—From the *Presbytery* of *Dingwall*, Mr John Downie at Urray, Mr Daniel Rose at Dingwall, *Ministers*; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Abertarph*, Mr James Grant at Laggan, Mr Thomas Ross at Kilmanivaig, *Ministers*; Coll MacDonald, Esq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Uist*, Mr George Munro at South Uist, Mr Edmund Macqueen at Barra, *Ministers*; William Macleod-Bannatyne, Esq; of Kames, advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Lochcarron*, Mr Alexander Stronach at Lochbroom, Mr Lauchlan MacKenzie at Lochcarron, *Ministers*; Baillie Daniel Miller, merchant in Canon-gate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Dornoch*, Mr George Rainnie at Creich, Mr John Bethune at Dornoch, *Ministers*; Robert Bruce Aeneas MacLeod, Esq; of Caddoll, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Tong*, Mr Alexander Falconer at Edrachilles, Mr John Thomson at Durness, *Ministers*; Mr William MacLean, merchant in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Caithness*, Mr Robert Gun at Latheron, Mr George MacKenzie at Olrick, *Ministers*; Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster, Bart. *Ruling Elder* :—From the

the *Burgh of Wick*, James Horne, Esq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery of Kirkwall*, Mr James Watson at South Ronaldsay, Mr Robert Yule at Kirkwall, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Youngson, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Kirkwall*, Malcolm Laing, Esq; advocate:—From the *Presbytery of Cairstone*, Mr James Bremner at Walls and Flotta, Mr John Falconer at Stromness and Sandwick, *Ministers*; James Cunningham of Hyndhope, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of North Isles*, Mr John Anderson at Stronsay and Eday, Mr James Izat at Westray and Papa Westray, *Ministers*; John Grieve, Esq; Commissioner of his Majesty's Board of Excise, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Zetland*, Mr William Mitchell at Tingwall, Mr John Inches at Nessing, *Ministers*; Professor Dalzel, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Edinburgh*, Mr James Craig at Currie, Dr William Gloag, Edinburgh, Dr John Walker at Collington, Mr Thomas Randall, and Mr William Moodie, Edinburgh, Mr Robert Dickson at South Leith, *Ministers*; Lord Henderland, William Ramsay, Esq; of Barnton, Donald Smith, Esq; Dean of Guild of the City, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City of Edinburgh*, the Right Hon. James Stirling, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Reid, present Deacon Convener of the Trades there:—From the *University of Edinburgh*, Mr James Finlayson, Professor of Logic in the University of Edinburgh:—From the *Church of Campvere*, Mr James Likly at Campvere, Bailie George Leslie, merchant in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery of Linlithgow*, Mr Robert Wishart at Livingston, Mr James Lindsay at Kirkliston, Mr William Gibb at Uphall, Mr James Rhind at Whitburn, *Ministers*; Provost Robert Clerk, Linlithgow, Charles Hope, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh of Linlithgow*, Robert Blair, Esq; advocate, his Majesty's Solicitor-General for Scotland:—From the *Presbytery of Biggar*, Mr John Gordon at Dolphington, Mr William Porteous at Kilbucho, Mr William Strachan at Culter, *Ministers*; John Brown of Cultermains, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Peebles*, Mr Charles Findlater at Newlands, Mr John Walker at Traquair, *Ministers*; James Montgomery, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Peebles*, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery of Dalkeith*, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk,

elk, Mr William Scott at Dalkeith, Mr James Goldie  
 at Temple, *Ministers*; Robert Dundas, Esq; of Arniston,  
 his Majesty's Advocate for Scotland, *Ruling Elder*:—  
 From the *Presbytery* of *Haddington*, Mr George Goldie  
 at Athelstaneford, Mr Hugh Cunninghame at Tranent,  
 Mr George Hamilton at Gladsmuir, *Ministers*; John  
 Hamilton of Pencaitland, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the  
*Burgh* of *Haddington*, Mr Richard Somner, surgeon in  
 Haddington:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunbar*, Mr Daniel  
 MacQueen, at Prestonkirk, Mr James Williamson at  
 Whitekirk, *Ministers*; John Anderson of Windygoul,  
 Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunse*, Mr Sel-  
 by Ord at Longformacus, Mr George Drummond at  
 Cranthaws, *Ministers*; Matthew Sandilands, Esq; of Cou-  
 ston, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Cburnside*, Mr  
 George Tod at Eymouth, Mr David Young at Foulden,  
*Ministers*; Sir John Stewart of Allanbank, Bart. *Ruling El-*  
*der*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kelso*, Mr James Richardson  
 at Morbattle, Mr Andrew Scott at Stitchell, *Ministers*;  
 the Right Hon. Henry Dundas, Treasurer of the Navy,  
*Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Jedburgh*, Mr  
 James Rutherford at Hounam, Mr Benjamin Dickson at  
 Kirkcoun, Mr David Brown at Crailing, *Ministers*;  
 John MacFarlane, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From  
 the *Presbytery* of *Lauder*, Mr William Gullan at Leger-  
 wood, Mr James Duncan at Mertoun, *Ministers*; Capt.  
 John Pringle of Georgefield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the  
*Burgh* of *Lauder*, the Earl of Lauderdale:—From the *Pre-*  
*sbytery* of *Selkirk*, Mr Thomas Robertson at Selkirk, Mr  
 William Campbell at Lilliesleaf, *Ministers*; William El-  
 liot, younger of Borthwickbrae, Esq; advocate, *Ruling*  
*Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Selkirk*, Mr James Rothead,  
 late merchant in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of  
*Annan*, Mr William Hardie Moncrieff at Annan, Mr  
 John Morgan at Graitney, *Ministers*; Sir William Max-  
 well of Springkell, Bart. *Ruling Elder*:—From the  
*Presbytery* of *Langholm*, Mr John Lowrie, at Eskdale-  
 muir, Mr John Russell at Cannonby, *Ministers*; Mr  
 James Saunders, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—  
 From the *Presbytery* of *Lochmaben*, Dr Patrick Nisbet at  
 Hutton, Mr David Donaldson at Wamphray, Mr David  
 Dickson at Saint Mungo, *Ministers*; Mr John Jaffray,  
 writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of  
*Lochmaben*, Mr Archibald Douglas, writer in Edinburgh:  
 —From the *Presbytery* of *Penpont*, Mr William Keyden  
 at Penpont, Mr William Ranken at Sanquhar, *Ministers*;  
 Mr

Mr Robert Crinzean in Penpont, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Sanquhar*, Mr John Peat, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dumfries*, Dr David Lamont at Kirkpatrick Durham, Mr James Heron at Kirkcuneon, Mr William Macmorin at Carlaverick, *Ministers*; Robert Riddell of Glenriddell, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Dumfries*, Alexander Ferguson, of Craigdarroch, Esq;—And the General Assembly added thereto, Dr Thomas Hardy, one of the ministers of the City, and Professor of Church History in the University of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator; together with all those whose commissions were rejected on account of informality, *viz.* For the *City* of *Glasgow*, Archibald Campbell, Esq; advocate:—For the *Presbytery* of *Inverary*, Mr Archibald Campbell at North Knapdale, Mr Lauchlan MacLauchlan at Craignish, *Ministers*; David Campbell, Esq; of Combie, *Ruling Elder*:—And for the *Presbytery* of *Lorn*, Mr William Campbell at Kilchrennan, Mr Ludovick Grant at Ardcharton, *Ministers*; John Campbell, Esq; of Lochend, *Ruling Elder*:—To BE COMMISSIONERS of this General Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully empowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon  
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the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here inserted; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission, to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise, to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correspondence with the Committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they

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shall

shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies one thousand seven hundred and twelve, and one thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money ; which two acts are printed among the acts of Assembly one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed ; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission ; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Assembly held in the year one thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission ; and such of the members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof ; and the Presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same : And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlement of vacant churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been some time the practice, but shall allow the same to lie over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th act of the Assembly one thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.

## V.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that end.

*Edinburgh, May 28. Sess. 9.*

**T**HE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr ROBERT SMALL, one of the ministers of Dundee, their Moderator, all the ministers who are members of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr Robert Muter at Kirkcudbright, Mr John Johnston at Crofsmichael, Dr William Boyd at Penningham, Mr John Coulter at Stranraer, Mr William MacQuhae at St Quivox, Mr John Shepherd at Muirkirk, Dr George Laurie at London, Mr John Monteith, *junior*, at Neilston, Mr Michael MacCulloch at Bothwell, Mr Joseph Crichton at Carstairs, Dr William Porteous, Glasgow, Mr William Taylor, there, Mr John Stewart at Luss, Mr Archibald MacLea at Rothsay, Mr Alexander Stewart at Jura, Mr Archibald MacColl at Tyrie, Mr Robert Williamson at Lethendy, Mr George Baird at Dunkeld, Mr Harry Inglis at Forteviot, Mr John Duncan at Alva, Mr John Scott at Muthill, Mr Patrick Graham at Aberfoil, Mr James Reid at Beath, Mr David Swan at Scoonie, Mr Robert Bogie at Logie, Mr John Mair at Cameron, Mr James Nairn at Pittenweem, Dr George Hill at St Andrew's, Mr James Ogilvy at Eassay, Mr John Webster at Inverarity, Mr David Spens at Kinnaird, Mr William Milligan at Kirkden, Mr Alexander Peter at Logiepert, Mr James Leslie at Fordoun, Dr Alexander Gerard, Aberdeen, Mr Thomas Gordon at Aboyne, Mr James Reid at Auchendoir, Mr William Duff at Foveran, Mr Thomas Shepherd at Bourtie, Mr Robert Duff at King Edward, Mr Robert Grant at Cullen, Mr John Cooper at Glas, Mr James Grant at Inveraven, Mr Lewis Grant at Cromdale, Mr William

William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr John Hoyes at Kinlofs, Mr Hugh Calder at Croy, Mr Robert Rose at Inverness, Mr Alexander Wood at Rosemarkie, Mr Alexander Munro at Edderton, Mr Daniel Rose at Dingwall, Mr James Grant at Laggan, Mr George Munro at South Uist, Mr Alexander Stronach at Lochbroom, Mr George Rainnie at Crieich, Mr Alexander Falconer at Edrachilles, Mr Robert Gun at Latheron, Mr James Watson at South Ronaldsay, Mr John Anderson at Stronfay, Mr William Mitchell at Tingwall, Mr Robert Wishart at Livingstone, Mr John Gordon at Dolphington, Mr Charles Findlater at Newlands, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr George Goldie at Athelstaneford, Mr Daniel MacQueen at Prestonkirk, Mr Selby Ord at Longformacus, Mr George Tod at Eymouth, Mr James Richardson at Morebattle, Mr James Rutherford at Hounam, Mr William Gullan at Legerwood, Mr Thomas Robertson at Selkirk, Mr William Hardie-Moncrieff at Annan, Mr John Russell at Canonby, Dr Patrick Nisbet at Hutton, Mr William Keyden at Penpont, Dr David Lamont at Kirkpatrick-Durham, *Ministers*; John Gordon, Esq; of Carleton, Horatius Cannan, Esq; of Barley, George Cranston, Esq; of Dewar, Thomas Adair, Esq; of Genoch, Mr Thomas Smith, writer, George Fergusson, Esq; advocate, the Hon. Mr Patrick Boyle, Henry Stewart, Esq; of Allanton, Professor Archibald Arthur, Glasgow, The Lord President, John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; Archibald MacDonald of Sanda, Esq; William Campbell of Fairfield, Esq; Allan MacDougall of Hayfield, Esq; Thomas Elder, Esq; of Forneth, David Steuart, Esq; banker, Professor Hugh MacLeod, Glasgow, the Hon. Henry Erskine, Major John Melvill, Dr Andrew Duncan, Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Weir, writer, Mr William MacCormick, Edinburgh, Professor Henry David Hill, Sir William Ramsay of Banff, Mr Thomas Miln, merchant, Canongate, Mr Thomas Duncan, writer, Adam Gillies, Esq; advocate, John Burnet, Esq, advocate, the Procurator, William MacDonald of Rineaton, Esq; Professor Thomas Gordon, Aberdeen, Mr William Gordon younger of Rothney, Mr James Morison, *jun.* merchant, Leith, Mr George Andrew, writer, Mr John Gordon, *jun.* of Cairnfield, Mr Baron Gordon, Isaac Grant, Esq; of Hilton, Dr Gregory Grant, Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Gordon, writer to the Signet, Mr William Scott, banker, Mr Alexander Grant, writer to the Signet, Robert MacKintosh, Esq; advocate, Convener John Lindsay, Edinburgh,



Edinburgh, Charles Ross, Esq; advocate, Robert Colt, Esq; of Auldham, Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, writer to the Signet, Mr Coll MacDonald, writer to the Signet, William Macleod-Bannatyne, Esq; of Kames, Bailie Daniel Miller, Canongate, Mr William MacLean, merchant, Edinburgh, Mr James Horn, writer to the Signet, Mr Alexander Youngson, writer, Malcolm Laing, Esq; advocate, James Cunningham, Esq; of Hyndhope, Commissioner Grieve, Professor Dalzel, Edinburgh, Lord Henderland, William Ramsay, Esq; of Barnton, Dean of Guild Smith, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Con- venger Reid, Baillie George Leslie, Charles Hope, Esq; advocate, the Solicitor General, John Brown of Coulter- mains, Esq; James Montgomery, Esq; advocate, An- drew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq; the Lord Advo- cate, Matthew Sandilands, Esq; of Coufton, the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, John MacFarlane, Esq; ad- vocate, the Earl of Lauderdale, William Elliot, Esq; ad- vocate, Sir William Maxwell, Baronet, Mr James Saunders, writer to the Signet, Mr John Jaffray, writer, Mr Archibald Douglas, writer, Mr John Peat, writer, Alex- ander Fergusson of Craigdarroch, Esq; *Ruling Elders* ; TO BE A COMMITTEE of this Assembly, for the reforma- tion of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for pro- moting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Po- pery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty for these ends, according to, and in terms of His Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preach- ers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, ac- cording to His Majesty's design, expressed in His war- rant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes, in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Loch- aber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ig- norance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the per- sons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conver- sation; prudent, of undoubted loyalty to His Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and

particularly in Popish controversies : Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick ; and, in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws : And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet ; which instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee, to have a particular regard in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Assemblies : And to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do : Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their registers, the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them ; and to direct all their letters, concerning missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee ; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof : And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, That they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts ; and that every Catechist who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners or gentlemen of the district shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to the Cathier, a declaration that he has received the particular sum specified ; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall in like manner bear, that the Catechist has

has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no such declaration of the Catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the Cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the Catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty. That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned, who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named, as members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers; and the said Committee are appointed to have their first general meeting at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of the first of the stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly; their second meeting (which is for fixing the annual scheme), upon the second Thursday of July, with power to those members who shall then be present, to adjourn; and their other two general meetings the first lawful days after the stated meetings of the Commission of the General Assembly, in November and March, within the Assembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient:

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And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and assistance ; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the Commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson advocate, Procurator for the Church, and receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the same, as he shall be directed and ordered by the foresaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of His Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be ministers ; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lie on the table till another meeting ; and in the mean time the person complained of, and the Presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just account of the matter, against the next meeting. And it is farther appointed, That after the yearly scheme of missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their answer to these letters, at farthest with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner ; and that the Committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves ; and if they cannot complete it, they shall name a Sub-committee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed

appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And empowered the Committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said Committee, in making up the scheme of missionaries, &c. do not exceed the sum in the grant.

## VI.

### Overture respecting the Ordination of Elders, re-transmitted,

*Edinburgh, May 31. 1784.*

**W**HEREAS great irregularities have crept into the Church, with respect to the ordination of Elders, the General Assembly overtures, That it be enacted, That no Minister should set apart any person to the office of Elder in his congregation, who has not a fixed residence in the parish, or who is not an heritor in the parish; it being the true meaning and intent of this Overture, to prevent Elders being ordained in congregations who are in nowise connected with them: And it being understood, that any city or town, where there are more congregations than one, shall be held as one parish, so far as respects the purpose of this Overture.

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## VII.

Edinburgh, May 30. 1791, *Scff. ult.*

THE ASSEMBLY having agreed to re-transmit the following Overture, with a Requisition, That PRESBYTERIES may bestow particular Attention upon the THIRD SECTION; and transmit their Opinion to next Assembly, respecting the number of Sessions that Students of Divinity should attend a Divinity-Hall; and the proper Distinction which ought to be made betwixt a regular and an occasional Attendance; the same is here re-transmitted accordingly.

### Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers, re-transmitted.

Edinburgh, May 26. 1787.

THE General Assembly having taken under their serious consideration, the great danger to which the interests of religion and of this Church may be exposed, by licensing any to preach the gospel, who are not duly qualified for that important trust, do hereby enact, and ordain, that, in all time coming, the following regulations shall be strictly observed!

I. It is hereby enacted, That no Student shall be entered upon the roll of any Professor of Divinity, unless he shall produce to the said Professor, a certificate from the minister of the parish in which he has his usual residence; or in his absence, or during a vacancy in said parish, from some neighbouring minister, bearing, that his character is suitable to his views; together with a diploma of Master of Arts, or Certificates from the several Professors of Philosophy, under whom he hath studied; from which it may be clearly ascertained, that in some University or Universities, he hath gone through

a full course of Philosophy, in some sessions of College preceding that in which the certificates are produced.

II. To afford the better security for the regular and exemplary conduct of Students in Divinity, it is hereby enacted, That upon the conclusion of that session in which they were first inrolled by the Professor, they shall, some time within six calendar months thereafter, intimate to the Presbyteries, in whose bounds they have their respective places of residence, that they have commenced Students in Divinity; and that, if any Student has occasion to remove from the bounds of one Presbytery to those of another, he shall, within six calendar months after said removal, intimate the same to the Presbytery in whose bounds he is to have his new residence, and produce to them a certificate of his character from that Presbytery with whom he was last connected; or at least a certificate of his moral character from the minister of the parish in which he resided. And it is farther enacted, That the several Presbyteries of this Church, shall keep exact lists of such Students of Divinity, as reside within their bounds, and watch over the conduct of the said Students.

III. The General Assembly do likewise hereby ordain, That all Students who have been inrolled by Professors of Divinity, in the manner prescribed by this act, shall continue to prosecute the study of Divinity for the term of six years: Provided always, That if any Student hath given regular attendance in the Divinity Hall, during three sessions, his course shall be considered as completed in four sessions; and that if he hath given regular attendance in the Hall during two sessions, his course shall be considered as completed in five sessions. And the Assembly do farther ordain, that in each of these cases, Students shall be inrolled by the Professors during the several sessions of their respective courses, and deliver in the Divinity Hall, in the manner herein afterwards provided, an *Exegesis* in Latin on some controverted head in Divinity, a Homily in English, an Exegesis and Addition, a Lecture on some large portion of Scripture, and a Popular Sermon, together with such other Exercises, as the Professors shall think proper to prescribe. It is likewise hereby enacted, That, in each of these respective cases, the course shall be computed from the commencement of that session in which the Student

Student was originally enrolled; and that if a Student be proposed to any Presbytery for trials, during the currency of his fourth, fifth or sixth session, according to the special nature of his case, that session shall be sustained as one of his course.

IV. Professors of Divinity are required to attend, as much as circumstances may permit, to the conduct of such Students as are under their care, and, as far as they find it practicable, to assist. That every Student shall deliver his first discourse some time during his second session, at the latest, and the remainder of his discourses at such periods as may enable him to deliver the whole of them before the end of January of the last session of his course.

V. When a Student is to be proposed to any Presbytery, in order to be taken upon trials, the Presbytery shall be alone, and the motion for that purpose shall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting. In the meantime, the Presbytery shall appoint the member by whom the Student has been proposed, to lay before the said meeting all the Certificates in favour of the Student, that are usually required on such occasions; to desire him to attend the same, and to inform him, that previously to the meeting, he ought to wait on such members of the Presbytery, as have not formerly had an opportunity of conversing with him in private.

VI. When the time appointed for considering the motion is arrived, the Presbytery shall strictly observe the following regulations:

1<sup>st</sup>. The Presbytery shall be alone, while they are employed in discussing the several preliminaries respecting Students who are proposed for trials.

2<sup>d</sup>. They shall require satisfying evidence, that every Student who is proposed for that purpose, has completed the twenty-first year of his age.

3<sup>d</sup>. No Student shall be admitted to trials, unless he produces to the Presbytery a Certificate or Certificates, from the Professor or Professors of Divinity, under whose tuition he hath studied, bearing, that he hath prosecuted his studies, and delivered his discourses in the manner prescribed by this act; and that his conduct, as far as confists with the knowledge of the said Professor,

or



or Professors, has been in every respect suitable to his views in life.

4th, No Presbytery shall receive any Student upon trials, unless they are satisfied that he is of good report ; sound in his principles ; pious, sober, grave, and prudent in his behaviour, of a peaceable disposition, and well affected to the happy establishment in this kingdom, both in Church and State. And, that the Presbytery may proceed with all due caution, in a matter of such peculiar importance, they shall not agree to the motion in behalf of the Student, unless he shall either have resided six kalendar months within their bounds, immediately previous to the date of their deliberations, or shall produce a certificate of his being qualified, as is herein provided, from the Presbytery in whose bounds he hath had his usual residence for that period.

5th, The Presbytery shall not agree to the motion in favour of the Student, unless they are satisfied that he has made a competent degree of proficiency in those several branches of knowledge, which are necessary to enable him to be an useful Preacher of the Gospel. And the General Assembly ordain, that the Presbytery, in order to procure full information in this respect, shall examine the Student, strictly and privately, on his knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, and of Philosophy and Theology.

6th, If, after these preliminary steps have been taken, the Presbytery shall be of opinion, that the Student is duly qualified in these several particulars, they shall record this opinion in their minutes, and order their clerk to write letters to the several Presbyteries within the bounds of the Provincial Synod, *two kalendar months at least before the meeting of the same*, informing them of the Presbytery's intention to take the Student upon public trials ; and bearing, that the several certificates in his favour, which are required by this act, have been regularly laid before them. But it is hereby provided, That within the bounds of such Synods as meet only once a-year, a Student may be entitled to have these circular letters written half a-year sooner than would be otherwise competent.

See Abridgment,  
Sess. ult. 1788.

VII. The General Assembly do likewise appoint Presbyteries to observe the several regulations which are prescribed in the immediately preceding section of this

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act, before they recommend a Student as qualified to be taken upon public trials by any other Presbytery.

VIII. If a Student hath studied, either in whole or in part, in Universities which are not within the bounds of this Church, he shall, when he is proposed to any Presbytery for trials, be required to produce satisfying testimonials from the Professors of Divinity in said Universities; and the time which these Professors shall certify to have been employed by him in studying Divinity under their tuition, shall be computed in the same manner as if he had prosecuted his studies in any of the Universities within the bounds of this Church. But it is hereby provided, That no Student, in such circumstances, shall be admitted, even to those private trials which are appointed to be taken before the writing of the circular letters, sooner than six kalendar months after his arrival in Scotland.

IX. The General Assembly ordain, That if a Presbytery propose to take a Student upon public trials, and have, with that view, written the circular letters, as is herein required, public intimation thereof shall be made at some diet of the next meeting of the Provincial Synod, which shall not be the last diet thereof. And it is likewise hereby ordained, That at some subsequent diet of the Synod, particular enquiry shall be made, whether any of the members of the Court has any objection to offer against the Student being entered upon public trials.

X. If the Synod shall allow the Student to be taken upon public trials, the Presbytery shall proceed therein with all convenient speed; and the Assembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the Student, and in the order herein mentioned: *1<sup>st</sup>*, Catechetic trials on Divinity, Chronology and Church History; *2<sup>d</sup>*, A trial on the Hebrew and Greek languages; *3<sup>d</sup>*, An *Exegesis* in Latin, on some controverted head in Divinity, with the defence of the Thesis; *4<sup>th</sup>*, A Homily in English; *5<sup>th</sup>*, An Exercise and Addition; *6<sup>th</sup>*, A Lecture on some large portion of Scripture; *7<sup>th</sup>*, A popular Sermon; it being understood, that if the Presbytery see cause, they may examine the Student upon the subject of these several discourses.

XI. The Student having gone through the several trials, which are mentioned in the immediately preceding section of this act, the Presbytery are ordained to proceed in the following order :

1<sup>st</sup>, They shall deliberately and seriously take a conjunct view of the whole trials ; and if they shall be of opinion, that the Student is not properly qualified to perform the duties incumbent on a Preacher of the Gospel, they shall by no means grant him a licence in his present circumstances.

2<sup>d</sup>, If, upon this review of the trials, the Presbytery are fully satisfied therewith, they shall record this opinion in their minutes.

3<sup>d</sup>, The Presbytery shall then propose to the Student, the questions which are appointed to be put to all who pass trials, by Act 10. Assemb. 1711, and require him to subscribe the *Formula*, which is prescribed by the said act. And the General Assembly strictly prohibit all Presbyteries from licensing any Student to preach the Gospel, who shall not give explicit and satisfying answers to these questions, and subscribe the said *Formula*.

4<sup>th</sup>, The Presbytery shall order the act against Simoniackal practices, to be read to the Student in their presence.

Lastly, The Presbytery shall appoint their Moderator to license the Student to preach the Gospel, and order their Clerk to furnish him with an extract of his license, agreeable to the form thereof, which is prescribed by the laws of this Church.

XII. For the better observance of this Act, the General Assembly ordain, 1<sup>st</sup>, That it shall be printed among their other printed acts ; 2<sup>d</sup>, That it shall be printed by itself, in some convenient form ; 3<sup>d</sup>, That a copy of this separate edition shall be transmitted to each Professor of Divinity in the Universities of Scotland ; and that the said Professors shall read the same in their respective halls, once at least during every session, and at such times as they have reason to expect the attendance of the greatest number of Students for that session ; 4<sup>th</sup>, That a copy of the same edition shall likewise be transmitted to the Clerks of each Synod and Presbytery within the bounds of this Church ; and that the said Clerks shall keep the same along with their minutes, and bring it up to each meeting of their respective Courts, for the use of the members ; and, *lastly*, That when any  
Presbytery

Presbytery shall give a Probationer an extract of his licence, they shall subjoin to the form which is already requisite on that occasion, the following words: "And  
 " the Presbytery do hereby certify, That, in granting  
 " this licence, the Act of Assembly                      respecting  
 " the licensing of Probationers, has been strictly ob-  
 " served."



## VIII.

### Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

*Edinburgh, May 30. 1791. Sess. ult.*

**T**HE next GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 17th day of May, 1792.

*Collected and extracted from the Records of the  
General Assembly, by*

*ANDREW DALZEL, Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

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VI. Government of the State of New York  
The State of New York is a free and independent State, and as such, has the right to determine its own form of government, and to alter the same from time to time, as it may think proper.

19. The State of New York is a free and independent State, and as such, has the right to determine its own form of government, and to alter the same from time to time, as it may think proper.

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ARTICLE I

# ABRIDGMENT

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the CHURCH of SCOTLAND, held at Edinburgh in the year 1791, which are not printed at full length.

*Thursday, May 19. 1791. Sess. 1st.*

**A**FTER Sermon by the Reverend Dr JOHN WALKER, Minister of Collington, and *Regius* Professor of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders convened in the Assembly-house in the usual manner: And, after prayer by the said Dr John Walker, the Reverend Dr ROBERT SMALL, one of the Ministers of Dundee, being unanimously chosen Moderator, he, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The KING's Commission to the Right Honourable DAVID Earl of LEVEN, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person, read, and ordered to be recorded.

See Printed Acts, No. I.

The King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, read, and ordered to be recorded.

and No. II.

The Commissioner's speech at the opening of the Assembly, and the Moderator's speech in return thereto.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

A Committee named for revising the Commissions to the Members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof, naming Ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, and receiving Lists of Probationers in the several Presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

A Committee for overtures named.

A Committee for bills, references, and appeals named.

Adjournment.

*Friday, May 20. 1791. Sess. 2d.*

*Sederunt.*

A diet spent in Prayer.

New Commissions produced.

Act VII. of the Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of the business of the Assembly, read, and the observation thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner.

The Committee for revising Commissions appointed to meet this evening at seven o'clock.

The

**A B R I D G M E N T. 1791.**

The Committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening at half past seven o'clock, in the usual places.  
Adjournment.

*Saturday, May 21. 1791. Sess. 3d.*

*Sederunt.*

A new Commission produced.

See Printed  
Acts, No. III.

The draught of an answer to the King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, being brought in, and approved, his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertook to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The Report of the Committee for overtures given in, and read. The Assembly proceeded to consider the objections to the following Commissions, *viz.*

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Deer, "That it is dated the 30th day of April, and that it is attested on the 27th day of April." After reasoning, a motion was made and seconded, "To reject the Commission, and expunge the Commissioners names from the roll." And another motion was made and seconded, "That whereas as it appears *ex facie* from the Commission, that the election was *not* made upon the 30th of April: And whereas evidence has been offered to this House, that the election was made upon the 30th of March, the General Assembly shall delay judging in the Commission, until the original record of the Presbytery be laid before the Assembly." To which last motion the Assembly agreed, without a vote; it being understood, that the Commissioners from the Presbytery of Deer, are not to be considered as Members of this Assembly, until it appears from the said record laid before the House, that the election was made in proper time.

It was objected to the Commission from the City of Glasgow, "That it is dated on the 8th day of April, and the resolution to elect is on the 1st of April, which is not ten free days." The Assembly rejected the Commission, and ordained the Commissioner's name to be expunged from the roll.

It was objected to the Commission from the Burgh of Elgin, "That in the attestation, the word *likewise* is omitted; and further, That in the same attestation, the words, *of the Assembly*, are also omitted." The Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Lorn, "That the following words, *the word of God*, are omitted." The Assembly rejected the Commission, and ordained the Commissioners names to be expunged from the roll.

The Report of the Committee appointed by the last General Assembly, on the subject of the Test Act, was given in and read: The Assembly agreed that the same shall lie on the table till Thursday next, to be by them considered on that day.

A Committee named to consider the subject of a General Augmentation of the Parochial Stipends, and Mr Solicitor-General appointed Convener thereof.

Thanks



Thanks given from the Chair to the former Committee on the Augmentation of Stipends, for their diligence in the business committed to them.

The roll of causes transmitted by the Committee for bills, called for, produced, and read.

Agreed to take up the cause respecting the Schoolmaster of Langholm on Monday next; and the cause respecting the settlement of Tullich, &c. on Tuesday.

A Committee appointed to consider the cause respecting the settlement of the parish of Cadder.

A Committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the Commission of the last General Assembly.

A Committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the Committee appointed by last Assembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

A Committee named to audit and revise the accounts of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, and other public accounts, consider the state of the Church's public money, and prepare overtures about the same.

The Committee for overtures appointed to meet this evening, and empowered to receive from the several Members any instructions given to them by the respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereon to the Assembly; and to receive and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and Superstition, and prepare overtures for preventing and suppressing thereof.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet this evening.  
Adjournment.

*Monday, May 23. 1791. Sess. 4th.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

Report of the Committee for overtures, called for, given in, and read.

Agreed to consider on Saturday next the overtures from the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, and from the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, on the subject of the Slave Trade.

Synod-books called for.

Committees appointed to revise the Synod-books of Angus and Mearns, and of Merse and Teviotdale.

None of the other Synod-books being brought up, appointed that they be brought up to next Assembly.

Agreed to consider on Saturday next, the report of the Committee appointed by last Assembly, to consider the proposed amendments on the overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers.

A petition for the Presbytery of Langholm, referring the cause against Mr Telfer, Schoolmaster of Langholm, to this Assembly, being read, a motion was made and seconded,  
" That this cause be remitted to the Presbytery of Lang-  
" holm, in terms of the decision of the Commission of last  
" Assembly, with instructions to them to proceed in it with-

“ out farther delay, to the best of their judgment, according to the rules of the Church.” And another motion was made and seconded, “ That parties at the bar be heard before any judgment be given.” The Assembly agreed to this state of the vote, *Remit* or *Proceed*; it being understood, that if it carry *Proceed*, parties shall be immediately heard. And the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *Remit*. Therefore the Assembly adopted the first motion as their judgment.

Agree to take up the cause anent the settlement of Dunfermline, and the cause concerning the settlement of Lochalsh on Wednesday; and the cause of Dr Macgill on Friday.

The Committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet.  
Adjournment.

*Tuesday, May 24. 1791. Sess. 5.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

Report of the Committee for overtures called for, given in, and read.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Inverary, “ That it wants the attestation.” The Assembly reject the Commission, and ordain the Commissioners names to be expunged from the roll.

A Committee appointed to consider the papers respecting the melioration of glebes and stipends.

The list of grievances from the Presbytery of North Isles referred to the Procurator.

The report of the Committee for bills called for, given in, and read.

Agreed to consider the cause respecting the schoolmaster of Bothwell on Saturday.

Agreed to take up the cause of Govan to-morrow, after the cause of Dunfermline.

The Committees for revising the Commission record, and Royal Bounty record, appointed to meet.

An appeal at the instance of James Farquharson, Esq; of Invercauld, and others, heritors or inhabitants of the united parishes of Tullich, Glenmuick and Glengairden, from a sentence of the Synod of Aberdeen, appointing the Presbytery of Kincardine-o’Neal, to proceed to the admission of Mr George Brown to be minister of these parishes, heard. A motion was then made and seconded, “ That the Assembly shall affirm the sentence of the Synod of Aberdeen, and ordain the Presbytery of Kincardine-o’Neal to proceed to the settlement of Mr George Brown in the united parishes of Tullich, Glenmuick and Glengairden, with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church.” And, after reasoning, another motion was made and seconded, “ That in respect there has not been proper and satisfactory evidence produced to the Assembly, that the knowledge of the Gaelic language is not necessary in the pastor of the united parishes of Tullich, Glenmuick and Glengairden, and as it does not appear that the Presbytery has taken the  
“ necessary

" necessary steps for obtaining that evidence, the General  
 " Assembly remit this cause to the Presbytery of Kincardine-  
 " o'Neal, with an instruction to take the most proper and  
 " expedient steps in order to obtain a just knowledge of the  
 " real state of the parish, and report to next Assembly."

The Assembly agreed to this state of the vote, *Affirm* or *Remit*,  
 and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *Affirm*.  
 Therefore the Assembly affirmed the sentence of the Synod  
 of Aberdeen.

A motion was made and unanimously agreed to, That as there  
 are a few persons in the united parishes of Tullich, Glen-  
 muick and Glengairden, who have not the English language;  
 the General Assembly instruct the Committee on the Royal  
 Bounty, to appoint an itinerant having the Gaelic language to  
 the said united parishes with all convenient speed, instruc-  
 ting them at the same time to provide Mr Grant the present  
 missionary, in a situation equally comfortable.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Wednesday, May 25. 1791. Sess. 6.

*Sederunt.*

Report of the Committee for bills called for, given in, and read.  
 The Committee on public accounts and new applications. And  
 the Committee on the case of Cadder, appointed to meet.

An appeal at the instance of John Eckford, merchant in Dun-  
 fermline, for himself, and in name of the other heritors, el-  
 ders, and others of the burgh and parish of Dunfermline,  
 who voted against the moderation and call of the Reverend  
 Mr Allan Maclean to be first minister of that parish, from a  
 sentence of the Synod of Fife, affirming a sentence of the  
 Presbytery of Dunfermline, sustaining the call to the said  
 Mr Allan Maclean to be minister of the first charge of the  
 church and parish of Dunfermline, and appointing the  
 said Presbytery to proceed to his settlement with all conve-  
 nient dispatch according to the rules of the Church, heard.  
 The Assembly unanimously considering this appeal as unfound-  
 ed, frivolous and vexatious, dismissed the same, and affirmed  
 the sentence of the Synod of Fife and Presbytery of Dun-  
 fermline; and at the request of the Presbytery, appointed  
 them to proceed to the settlement of Mr Maclean, on or be-  
 fore the 15th day of July next, according to the rules of the  
 Church.

An appeal at the instance of James Ritchie, Esq; of Busby,  
 and others, heritors of the parish of Govan, from a sentence  
 of the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, affirming a sentence of the  
 Presbytery of Glasgow, sustaining the call of the parish of  
 Govan, in favour of Mr John Pollock, and appointing the  
 Presbytery to proceed to his ordination as minister of that  
 church and parish, with all convenient speed, according to  
 the rules of the Church, heard. The Assembly found this  
 appeal frivolous and vexatious, and dismissed the same: Af-  
 firmed the sentence of the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, and  
 ordained the Presbytery of Glasgow to proceed to the settle-  
 ment

act, before they recommend a Student as qualified to be taken upon public trials by any other Presbytery.

VIII. If a Student hath studied, either in whole or in part, in Universities which are not within the bounds of this Church, he shall, when he is proposed to any Presbytery for trials, be required to produce satisfying testimonials from the Professors of Divinity in said Universities; and the time which these Professors shall certify to have been employed by him in studying Divinity under their tuition, shall be computed in the same manner as if he had prosecuted his studies in any of the Universities within the bounds of this Church. But it is hereby provided, That no Student, in such circumstances, shall be admitted, even to those private trials which are appointed to be taken before the writing of the circular letters, sooner than six kalendar months after his arrival in Scotland.

IX. The General Assembly ordain, That if a Presbytery propose to take a Student upon public trials, and have, with that view, written the circular letters, as is herein required, public intimation thereof shall be made at some diet of the next meeting of the Provincial Synod, which shall not be the last diet thereof. And it is likewise hereby ordained, That at some subsequent diet of the Synod, particular enquiry shall be made, whether any of the members of the Court has any objection to offer against the Student being entered upon public trials.

X. If the Synod shall allow the Student to be taken upon public trials, the Presbytery shall proceed therein with all convenient speed; and the Assembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the Student, and in the order herein mentioned: *1<sup>st</sup>*, Catechetic trials on Divinity, Chronology and Church History; *2<sup>d</sup>*, A trial on the Hebrew and Greek languages; *3<sup>d</sup>*, An *Exegesis* in Latin, on some controverted head in Divinity, with the defence of the Thesis; *4<sup>th</sup>*, A Homily in English; *5<sup>th</sup>*, An Exercise and Addition; *6<sup>th</sup>*, A Lecture on some large portion of Scripture; *7<sup>th</sup>*, A popular Sermon; it being understood, that if the Presbytery see cause, they may examine the Student upon the subject of these several discourses.

Upon a motion made, a Committee was named to devise a method by which a monument may be erected, or some public mark of respect be paid to the memory of the late Dr Alexander Webster, original projector and founder of the scheme by which a fund of provision was made for the widows of the ministers of the Established Church of Scotland; and Mr Gordon of Carleton appointed convener of the Committee.

The report of the Committee appointed by last Assembly on the subject of the Test Act, which the Assembly had formerly agreed should lie on the table till this day, was again called for, and read; and the Assembly unanimously ordered the same to be recorded.

An appeal at the instance of George Gray, and others, heritors and heads of families of the parish of Ancrum, from a sentence of the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, affirming a sentence of the Presbytery of Jedburgh, sustaining a presentation and call to Mr James Oliver, preacher, to be minister of that parish, heard. The Assembly dismissed the appeal as groundless, and ordained the Presbytery of Jedburgh to proceed to the settlement of Mr Oliver with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church. From which decision three members dissented.

Adjournment.

Friday, May 27. 1791. Sess. 8.

*Sederunt.*

Two members adhered to the dissent of yesterday in the decision respecting the settlement of Ancrum.

The Committees for revising the Commission record, and Royal Bounty record, appointed to report to-morrow.

A petition, with extract minutes from the Synod of Moray, respecting the suppression of the parish of Dundurcas, and the annexation of it to the parishes of Rothes and Boharn, read. The Assembly remitted the same to the Procurator and Agent, to do therein as they may see cause.

A petition for the Presbytery of Ayr, referring the cause against Dr William Macgill, one of the ministers of Ayr, heard; and, after reasoning, the Assembly heard Mr Thomas Muir, Advocate, counsel for the complainers, upon the right of the said complainers to be heard; and, after reasoning at great length, a motion was made and seconded, That the Assembly shall dismiss this complaint as a *res haftenus judicata*; and another motion was made and seconded, That the Assembly shall not agree to this motion. It was agreed to put this state of the vote, *dismiss* the complaint or *not*; and the roll being called and votes marked, it carried by a great majority, *dismiss*. The Assembly therefore dismissed the said complaint accordingly. Against which two members dissented.

A Committee appointed to revise the Synod-book of Glasgow and Ayr.

Adjournment.

L

Saturday,

Saturday, May 28, 1791. Saff. 9.

*Sederunt.*

The record of the Presbytery of Deer was produced and read, from which it appeared, that the Commissioners from that Presbytery were elected on the 30th of March 1791. The Assembly therefore agreed, in terms of their former resolution, that the said Commissioners shall now take their seats as members of this Assembly.

A reference from the Presbytery of Aberdeen, sent Mr Hugh Hay, read: The Procurator for the Church reported, That he had attended, according to the order of last Assembly, to the civil process of reduction at the instance of Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Hay of Rannes, against Mr Hugh Hay, preacher of the gospel, and that the Court of Session have given the following decision in said process, "Find it proven, That a simoniacal transaction was entered into between the late Mr Hay of Rannes and James Robertson, but that the defender Mr Hugh Hay had no knowledge of, nor accession thereto." The Assembly approved of the conduct of the Presbytery of Aberdeen, in lifting procedure in the settlement of Mr Hugh Hay, as one of the ministers of Aberdeen, until the civil question above mentioned was determined, but declared, that the Presbytery is now at full liberty to proceed in the said settlement with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him and his cautioners of the sum of L. 546 : 7 : 7  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sterling disbursed by him, and appointing that he take credit in his next account for the sum of L. 46 : 7 : 7  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the account of Mr George Cairncross, Agent for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him of the sum of L. 116 : 13 : 0  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sterling disbursed by him, and appointing that he take credit in his next account for the sum of L. 4 : 3 : 0  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the account of Dr William Gloag, sub-clerk of Assembly, and exonerating and discharging him of the sum of L. 32 : 14 : 5 Sterling disbursed by him; and appointing that he take credit in his next account for the sum of L. 13, 19s. 5d. Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the account of Mr James Dickson, Printer for the Church, and ordering payment of the sum of L. 16, 17s. Sterling, being the amount thereof.

Act approving of the account of Mr Elphinston Balfour, Stationer to the Church, and ordering payment of the sum of L. 10 : 7 : 4 Sterling, being the amount thereof.

An account due to Mr William Murray for writings, ordered to be paid.

The report of the Committee on the public funds of the Church, and new applications thereanent, given in and read, and unanimously approved of.

The Procurator authorised to pay to Mr Alexander Nairne, as trustee for William Brodie's creditors, the sum of L. 7 : 2 : 8  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sterling,

Sterling, being the amount of an account due to him for altering the Assembly-house; and,

To pay to Mr Andrew Brown, minister of Falkland, the sum of L. 15 Sterling, being the amount of the expences awarded against him by the Court of Session, in the process with his heritors. Both these, as soon as the debts now on the funds of the Church are paid.

A list of grievances from the Presbytery of North Hles; and a list of grievances from the Presbytery of Kirkwall were read, and remitted to the Procurator for his advice and direction. In the mean time, the Assembly expressed their sympathy with the brethren of those Presbyteries, and ordered the said lists to lie on the table, until the state of the funds of the Church shall admit of affording them aid in prosecuting their just claims before a civil Court. At the same time, the General Assembly earnestly wish, that such measures may be speedily adopted by the heritors within the bounds of these Presbyteries, as may render this aid unnecessary.

The report of the visitors of the Commission record called for; the Commission's conduct approved of; thanks given to the Moderator of the Commission, and their book ordered to be attested.

The report of the Committee for naming the Members of the See printed Acts, No. IV.  
COMMISSION of this ASSEMBLY, and preparing instructions to them, given in, and approved of. The Assembly added thereto Dr Thomas Hardy, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator, and also all those whose commissions had been rejected on account of informality.

The report of the visitors of the Royal Bounty register given in and read, the conduct of the managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, See printed Acts, No. V.  
with a commission and instructions to them.

The Committees for revising the Synod books, appointed to give in their reports on Monday.

The Committee on the scheme for erecting new parishes in the Highlands and Islands, renewed, with the former powers.

The Committee on the Enzie fund renewed, with the former powers; and Mr John Kemp, Mr John Gordon younger of Cairnfield, and Mr James Morison *jun.* merchant in Leith, were added thereto.

The names of the Committee on the augmentation of stipends being read, some members were added thereto.

The report of the Trustees of the Fund established by act of Parliament for a provision to Ministers Widows, &c. containing an account of their proceedings since last General Assembly, and a state of the fund under their management given in, and ordered to lie on the table till Monday: And, upon a motion, the thanks of the House were given from the Chair to Sir Henry Moncrieff-Wellwood, for his fidelity, attention, and prudence in the management of the Fund.

The report of the Committee for classing returns to overtures given in and read.

See printed Acts, No. VI. The overture respecting the ordination of Elders, read, and ordered to be re-transmitted.

Dr Walker, Moderator of last General Assembly, informed the House, that in consequence of an application made to the Lord Advocate, the Lords of the Treasury had given directions not to levy from the Clergy of Scotland, the New House and Window Duty of ten *per cent.* on the former Taxes, imposed by an act of last session of Parliament, but to place the same *in super.* The thanks of the House were unanimously given to the Lord Advocate for his great attention to the interest of the Clergy on this occasion; and also to Dr Walker for his diligence in this affair.

The Assembly proceeded to consider the overtures from the Synods of Lothian and Tweeddale, and Merse and Teviotdale, on the Slave Trade, and having reasoned upon these overtures, the Assembly, in terms of their resolution on the subject of similar overtures in the year 1788, approved of the spirit thereof, and think themselves called upon as men, as Christians, and as members of this National Church, to declare their abhorrence of a traffic so contrary to the rights of mankind, and the feelings of humanity; but they judge it unnecessary at present to proceed farther in this business, trusting that the wisdom and mercy of the Legislature will take such steps as they shall think proper for the relief of that unhappy race of men, mentioned in the said overtures.

Mr John Millar, Advocate, as counsel for James Dunlop, Esq; and other heritors of the parish of Cadder, appeared at the bar, and withdrew the petition given in for them, anent the settlement of Cadder. The Assembly then proceeded to consider the report of the Committee on that cause, and after reasoning, they remitted the said report to the consideration of the Presbytery of Glasgow.

The cause of Bothwell delayed till Monday.  
Adjournment.

Monday, May 30. 1791. *Sess: ult.*

*Sederunt.*

The report of the Trustees of the Fund established by act of Parliament for a provision to Ministers Widows, &c. again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register kept for that purpose.

The Synod-book of Angus and Mearns ordered to be attested.

The Synod-book of Merse and Teviotdale ordered to be attested.

The Synod-book of Glasgow and Ayr ordered to be attested.

List of Probationers produced, their names read out, and ordered to be recorded.

The report of the Committee appointed by last Assembly to consider the overture concerning the licensing of Probationers, was read; and after reasoning thereon, the Assembly recommended the same to the former Committee, and added Mr Randal thereto, and recommended it to them to take into consideration a proper form of an extract of a licence to Probationers. And in the mean time, the Assembly agreed to re-transmit



transmit the former overture without any amendment, with a requisition, that Presbyteries may bestow particular attention upon the 3d section, and transmit their opinion to next Assembly, respecting the number of sessions that Students of Divinity should attend a Divinity-hall, and the proper distinction which ought to be made, betwixt a regular and an occasional attendance.

See printed Acts,  
No. VII.

The Committee on the Horse-tax renewed, and the Assembly added thereto Dr David Johnston, and appointed him Convener.

The Assembly proceeded to the cause respecting the Schoolmaster of Bothwell, and heard parties first on the point of the jurisdiction of the Court. After reasoning, the Assembly without a vote sustained the appeal to the Synod as competent. And having been informed by the Procurator, that the question with regard to the power of the superior Ecclesiastical Courts to review the sentence of a Presbytery relative to the qualification of a schoolmaster is now depending before the Court of Session, authorise the Procurator and Agent to attend to the rights of the Church in that cause, and to report to next Assembly. The Assembly referred to their Commission the merits of this cause, and all other causes brought before this Assembly, and not discussed by them.

Protestations admitted.

The Committee for devising a method for erecting a monument to the memory of Dr Alexander Webster, appointed to meet this evening.

A Committee named to revise the minutes of the Assembly's proceedings, at this and all other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of the Assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.

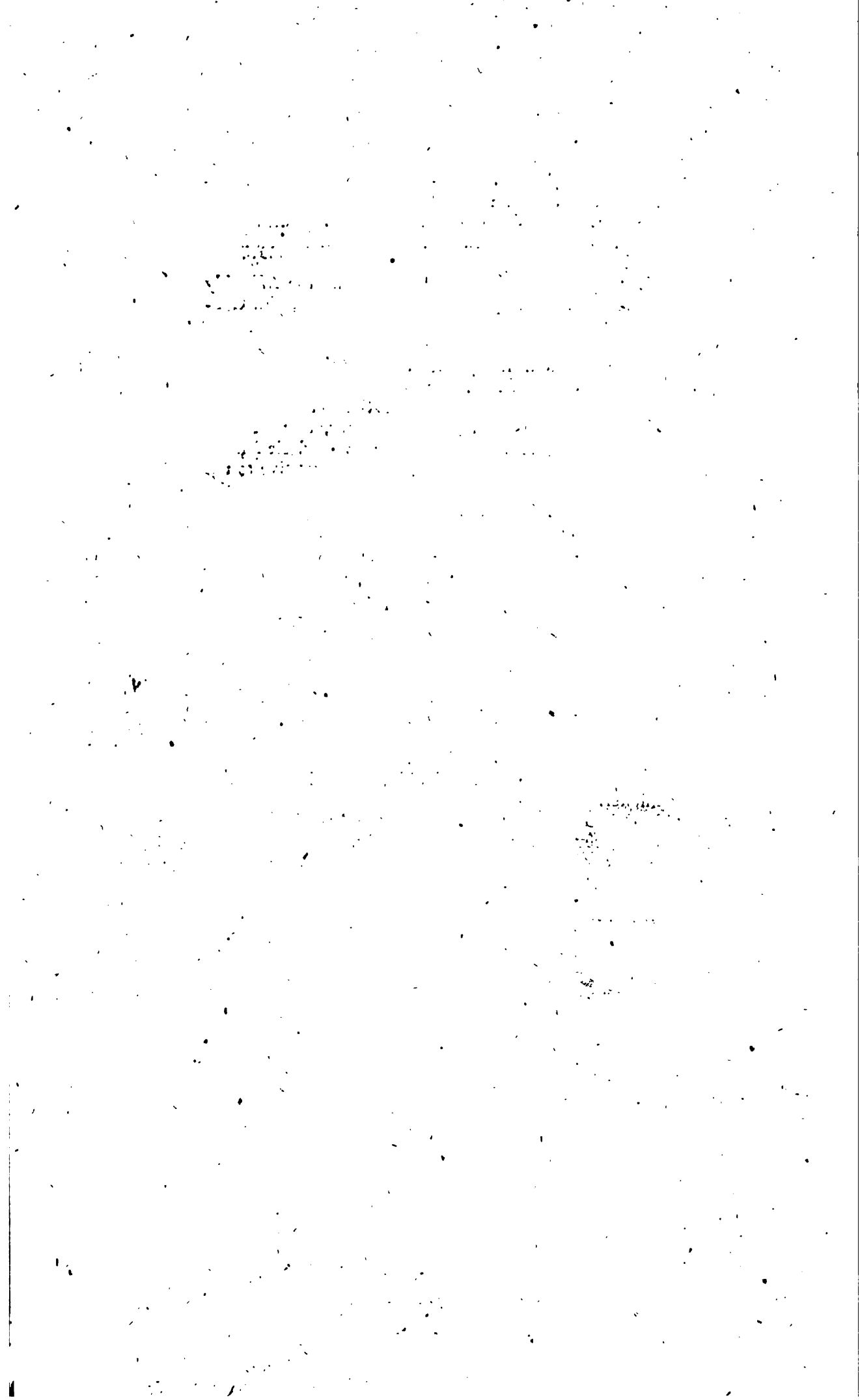
The Moderator's speech to the Assembly, and to his Grace the Commissioner.

The Lord High Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

Act appointing next meeting of the Assembly.

See printed Acts,  
No. VIII.

The Assembly concluded with Prayer, Singing of Psalms, and pronouncing the Blessing.



THE PRINCIPAL  
A C T S  
OF THE  
General Assembly  
OF THE  
C H U R C H  
OF  
S C O T L A N D,

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, THE 17th DAY OF MAY 1792.

COLLECTED AND EXTRACTED FROM THE RECORDS BY THE CLERK THEREOF.



EDINBURGH:  
PRINTED BY JAMES DICKSON, PRINTER TO THE CHURCH OF  
SCOTLAND.  
M.DCC.XCII.

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1000

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THE PRINCIPAL  
A C T S  
OF THE  
General Assembly  
OF THE  
CHURCH of SCOTLAND,

Begun at EDINBURGH, the 17th day of MAY 1792,  
and concluded the 28th day of the said Month and  
Year.

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I.

The KING's Commission to DAVID Earl  
of LEVEN produced, and ordered to  
be recorded.

*Edinburgh, May 17. 1792.*

**T**HE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this NATIONAL  
CHURCH being convened and constituted,  
there was produced to them, by the Right  
Honourable DAVID EARL of LEVEN, the  
KING's Commission, sealed with the seal ap-  
pointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in  
*Scotland*, in place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making  
and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner  
and

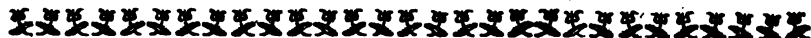
and Representative in this Assembly ; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Assembly ;—the tenor whereof follows :

**G**EORGIUS, Dei gratia, Magnæ Britannia, Franciæ et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentis literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem Nos considerantes, quod generalis ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventus in decimum septimum diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit ; Nosque abundè cupidi, et necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem ecclesiæ generalis conventus die statuto debitè observetur, atque rebus magni momenti Nos aliò vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus ; Nosque abundè satisfacti, quod sufficienti et fidelitate fidelissimi et prædilectissimi Nostri consanguinei Davidis Comititis de Leven, quod ad summum munus Nostri supremi Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum rite exercendum et abeundum usquequaque sit instructus. Noueritis, igitur, Nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, tenoreque præsentium, nominare, constituere, et ordinare, memoratum, fidelissimum et prædilectissimum Nostrum consanguineum Davidem Comitem de Leven, supremum Nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam potestatem, Commissionem, et warrantum sacram Nostram Personam et auctoritatem regalem repræsentandi, nec non præsentiam Nostram supplendi, et locum Nostrum in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario Nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu paragendi, tam plenè adeoque liberè in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius in eodem summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ad si Nos ipsi personaliter præsentem facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula quæ dictus David Comes de Leven, in hac Nostra Commissionem prosequenda legitime fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, Nos firmiter approbamus, et ratificamus. Insuper omnibus et singulis dicti conventus et ecclesiæ pastoribus et presbyteris cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britannia Scotiam vocatam, subditis Nostri, cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum Davidem Comitem de Leven, tanquam supremum Nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoscant et audiant, stricte mandamus et precipimus : Atque hanc Nostram Commissionem à dicto decimo septimo die Maii, proximi incipere, et deinceps durante subsequente sessione dicti generalis conventus in vigore continuare, declaramus, vel usque dum a Nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur.

In

*In cujus rei testimonium, presentibus sigillum Nostrum per Unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus. Apud aulam Nostram apud St James's, vigesimo die mensis Aprilis; anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo et nonagesimo secundo, Regni-que Nostrum anno trigesimo secundo.*

*Per signaturam manu S. D. N. Regis superscriptam.*



## II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

**R**IGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well.—The experience We have had of your Loyalty and Affection to Our Person and Government, and of your zeal for the encouragement of true Religion and Virtue, leaves Us no doubt of your disposition, on the present occasion, to persevere in promoting the Happiness of Our Reign, and the true Interests of the Church of which you are Members.

We therefore feel the highest satisfaction in continuing to countenance your Meetings with Our Royal Authority, and to assure you of Our fixed determination to maintain the Church of Scotland, in the perfect enjoyment of all its just Rights and Privileges.

We are persuaded, that you will apply yourselves with temper and moderation to promote the good ends for which you are assembled, the Advancement of Religion, and the Service of Almighty God; that you will avoid all unnecessary debates and contentions, and that your deliberations will be directed to the means of checking the growth of vice and impiety, of promoting the practice of all Christian Duties, and of keeping alive that respect and regard for the Clergy, and that deference and subordination to the Magi-

B

stracy,

stracy, which are essential to the Peace and good Order of every Society, and must always be conducive to the Happiness and Prosperity of this Kingdom.

You will no doubt study to impress upon the minds of Our Subjects, a just sense of the many Blessings they at present enjoy under the favour of Providence, that by manifesting a spirit of Devotion, a respect for the Laws, and an attention to the various duties of Our Holy Religion, they may render themselves worthy of such Blessings, and best insure the future continuance of them.

We have again appointed Our Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousin, DAVID Earl of LEVEN, to represent Our Royal Person in this Assembly, being well satisfied with his upright and faithful conduct in the execution of that important trust, and not doubting but he must continue to be acceptable to you from the affection to the Church of Scotland, and the zeal for the interests of Religion, which he has manifested on so many former occasions.

We take this opportunity of repeating to you Our earnest exhortations, that you will proceed in the business before you with that unanimity, charity and brotherly love, which truly become such an Assembly, and without which no real dignity or utility can attend your deliberations: And We trust that you will bring this meeting to a happy conclusion. And so We bid you heartily farewell.—Given at Our Court at St James's, the 7th day of May 1792, in the 32d year of Our Reign.

By his Majesty's Command,

HENRY DUNDAS.

*Addressed thus:—To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved the Moderator, Ministers and Elders of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

III. The





## III.

## The General Assembly's Answer to the KING's most gracious Letter.

*May it please Your Majesty,*

**T**HE most gracious letter with which Your Majesty has been pleased to honour this General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was received with that respect and gratitude which are due for so signal a mark of Your Royal condescension and favour.

We offer our most sincere and humble acknowledgements for the confidence Your Majesty has been pleased to repose in our loyalty and affection to Your Person and Government, and in our zeal for the encouragement of True Religion and Virtue. We beg leave to assure Your Majesty, that we come together at present, possessed of the same dispositions and principles which have regulated our conduct on former occasions. While we regard the approbation of our Sovereign as a most agreeable recompence for our past services, we trust that the hope of being again honoured with it, will animate us to a steady perseverance in our endeavours to promote the Happiness of Your Reign, and the true interests of the Church of which we are Members.

That your Majesty continues to countenance our Meetings with Your Royal Authority, we consider as a most satisfactory proof of Your paternal Goodness; and we rely, with the most perfect security, on Your fixed determination to maintain the Church of Scotland in the perfect enjoyment of all her just Rights and Privileges.

Assembled for the advancement of True Religion, and the Service of Almighty God, we shall apply ourselves with temper and moderation, to promote these good ends. We shall endeavour to avoid all unnecessary

fary debates and contentions, as not more displeasing to Your Majesty, than dishonourable to ourselves, and inconsistent with the wisdom that is from above; and we shall bear in mind the special obligations we are laid under, to direct all our deliberations to the means of checking the growth of vice and impiety, of promoting the practice of all Christian Duties, and of keeping alive among all ranks of men committed to our charge, that respect and regard for the Clergy, and that deference and subordination to the Magistracy, which are essential to the peace and good order of any Society, which must always be conducive to the happiness and prosperity of this Kingdom, and which invariably mark the character of the followers of the Prince of Peace.

In our several stations, we shall use our best endeavours to impress upon the minds of Your Majesty's subjects, a just sense of the many important blessings they at present enjoy under the favour of Providence; and we shall strenuously inculcate upon them, that by manifesting a spirit of Devotion, a respect for the Laws, and an attention to the various duties of our Holy Religion, they will most suitably express their gratitude to that God who hath dealt so bountifully with them, and take the most effectual method to ensure a continuance of His blessing and protection.

We rejoice in the renewed expression of Your Majesty's zeal for the propagation of the Reformed Protestant Religion in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland; and it shall be our care, by a faithful application of the sum Your Majesty hath graciously bestowed, to fulfil the pious and benevolent intentions of the Royal Donor.

The unfeigned attachment of the Right Honourable the Earl of LEVEN to Your Majesty's sacred Person and Government, his approved fidelity and uprightness in the execution of the important trust with which he hath formerly been vested, that zealous and affectionate regard to the civil and religious interests of his country, by which he and his ancestors have been distinguished, his amiable character in private life, and his good offices to ourselves, render your Majesty's re-appointment of him to represent Your Royal Person in this Assembly entirely acceptable to us; and for this particular testimony of Your Royal favour towards us, we feel, and desire to express most cordial gratitude.

Convinced

Convinced that unanimity, charity, and brotherly love, truly become our Assembly, and that without them no real dignity or utility can attend our deliberations, we are solicitous to be possessed of those qualities when we proceed in the business more immediately before us; and we shall study so to comply with Your Majesty's earnest and most wise exhortations, as to bring our present Meeting to a happy conclusion.

That the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, may establish Your Throne in righteousness, and in the hearts of Your people,—that He may long preserve Your Majesty the Guardian of religion and liberty,—that He may enrich Your Royal Consort, our most gracious QUEEN, with all Heavenly Blessings,—that His Divine Favour may attend his Royal Highness the PRINCE OF WALES, and all Your Royal Family,—that Your Descendants, to the latest posterity, may sway the Sceptre over a free, a loyal, and a happy people,—and that when He shall call You hence, full of years and of glory, he may give you a Kingdom which cannot be moved,—are the prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient, and most loyal subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

*Edinburgh, 2  
May 19. 1792.*

ANDREW HUNTER, Moderator.



## IV.

The General Assembly's congratulatory Address to his Majesty upon the Marriage of his Royal Highness the Duke of York with the Princess Royal of Prussia.

*May it please Your Majesty,*

**WE** Your Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in the General Assembly of this National Church, embrace the first opportunity of approaching the Throne, with our respectful congratulations upon the marriage of his Royal Highness the Duke of York with the Princess Royal of Prussia.

We rejoice in every event which contributes to the domestic felicity of the Father of his people; and we regard the auspicious union of a British Prince with the Daughter of our illustrious Protestant Ally, as an additional security to the Protestant succession.

That Your Majesty may long continue to reign in the hearts of a free and happy people,—that the Almighty may pour down his choicest blessings upon the Queen, the Prince of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of York, and all the branches of the Royal Family,—that Princes of the House of Hanover, formed upon Your Majesty's example, may, in every succeeding age, sway the British Sceptre with the same moderation and renown,—and that, under their protection, the inhabitants of Great Britain may, to latest posterity, derive from that excellent constitution, by which, through the favour of Providence, we are distinguished amongst the nations of the earth, the same full measure of religious and civil liberty which we at present enjoy,  
and

and for which we daily bless the God of our Fathers,  
—are the earnest prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient, and most loyal subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this Na-  
tional Assembly of the Church of Scot-  
land.*

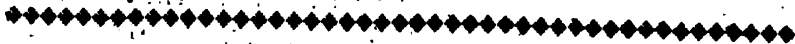
Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

*Edinburgh, }  
May 19. 1792. }*

ANDREW HUNTER, *Moderator.*



V.

COMMISSION of the General Assembly  
to certain Ministers and Ruling El-  
ders, for discussing affairs referred to  
them.

*Edinburgh, May 26. 1792. Sess. 9.*

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do no-  
minate, commission and appoint the Reverend  
Dr ANDREW HUNTER, one of the Ministers of the  
City, and Professor of Divinity in the University of  
Edinburgh, their Moderator: And,—From the *Pres-  
bytery of Annan*, Mr James Smail at Dornock, Mr A-  
lexander Monilaws at Kirkpatrick, *Ministers*; James  
Carruthers of Warmanbie, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From  
the *Presbytery of Langholm*, Mr William Little at West-  
erkirk,

erkirk, Mr Thomas Martin at Langholm, *Ministers* ;  
 Mr James Saunders, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Lochmaben*, Mr Alexander Brown at Moffat, Mr Robert Little at Applegarth, Mr Andrew Jaffray at Lochmaben, *Ministers* ; Mr John Jaffray, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Panmure*, Mr William Grierison at Glencairn, Mr John MacKell at Durrisddeer, *Ministers* ; Mr Robert Edgar in Kirkland of Morton, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh* of *Sanquhar*, Mr John Peat, writer in Edinburgh :—From the *Presbytery* of *Dumfries*, Mr James MacMillan at Torthorwald, Dr Bryce Johnston at Holywood, Mr Theodore Keyden at Terreagles, *Ministers* ; Robert Riddell of Glenriddel, Esq; *Ruling Elder* : From the *Burgh* of *Dumfries*, Alexander Ferguson, Esq; of Craigdarroch, advocate :—From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkcudbright*, Mr John Gillespie at Kells, Mr John Johnston at Crossmichael, Mr James Thomson at Balmaclellan, *Ministers* ; John Gordon, Esq; of Carleton, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh* of *Kirkcudbright*, Horatius Cannan, Esq; of Barley :—From the *Burgh* of *New Galloway*, Mr Robert Heron, Preacher of the Gospel :—From the *Presbytery* of *Wigton*, Dr James Laing at Glasserton, Mr John Steven at Mochrum, *Ministers* ; Mr John Stewart at Balcrosh, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh* of *Wigton*, George Cranston, Esq; of Dewar :—From the *Burgh* of *Wigton*, John Busby, Esq; Sheriff-clerk of *Dumfries* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Stranraer*, Mr Robert Callander at Kirkmaiden, Dr Anthony Stewart at Newluc, *Ministers* ; Thomas Adair of Genoch, Esq; *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh* of *Stranraer*, Mr Thomas Smith, writer in Edinburgh :—From the *Presbytery* of *Ayr*, Dr Andrew Mitchell at Monkton, Mr John Ramsay at Kirkmichael, Mr George Smith at Galston, Mr Stephen Young at Barr, Mr Robert Duncan at Dundonald, *Ministers* ; John Hamilton, Esq; of Bargeny, Thomas Kennedy, Esq; of Dunure, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Burgh* of *Ayr*, George Fergusson, Esq; advocate :—From the *Presbytery* of *Irvine*, Mr Henry Graham at Cumbray, Mr Thomas Pollock at Kilwinning, Mr James Richmond at Irvine, *Ministers* ; the Honourable Patrick Boyle of Shewalton, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Paisley*, Mr John Monteith senior at Houston, Mr John Forrest at Port Glasgow, Mr Stevenson MacGill at Eastwood, Mr Walter Young

Young at Erskine, *Ministers*; Robert Davidson, Esq; advocate, Mr Alexander Dunn, skinner in Paisley, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of Hamilton, Mr James French at Kilbride, Dr Alexander Hutchison at Hamilton, Mr Robert Clason at Dalziel, *Ministers*; Professor George Jardine, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Lanark, Mr James Gray at Lanark, Mr James Hall at Lesmahago, *Ministers*; Professor Archibald Arthur, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of Lanark, John Bannatyne, Esq; of Castlebank:—From the *Presbytery* of Glasgow, Dr William Taylor at Glasgow, Mr David Dow at Cathcart, Mr John Pollock at Govan, Mr Adam Forman at Carmunnock, *Ministers*; Sir John Stirling of Glorat, Baronet, John Corbet, Esq; of Tolcrofs, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City* of Glasgow, Archibald Campbell, Esq; advocate:—From the *University* of Glasgow, Mr John Young, Professor of Greek in the College of Glasgow:—From the *Burgh* of Rutberglen, John Connel, Esq; advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of Dumbarton, Mr James Couper at Badernock, Mr Alexander MacAulay at Cardross, Mr Gavin Gibb at Strathblane, *Ministers*; the Right Honourable the Lord President, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of Dumbarton, Archibald Campbell, Esq; younger of Succoth:—From the *Presbytery* of Dunoon, Mr Charles Stewart at Strachur, Mr Dugald MacDougall at Lochgoilhead, *Ministers*; John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Kintyre, Mr George Robertson at Cambelton, Dr John Smith at Campbelton, Mr Francis Stewart at Jura and Colonsay, *Ministers*; Archibald MacDonald, Esq; of Sanda, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of Campbelton, William Campbell, Esq; of Fairfield:—From the *Presbytery* of Inverary, Mr Archibald Campbell at North Knapdale, Mr Lauchlan MacLauchlan at Craignish, *Ministers*; David Campbell of Combie, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of Inverary, Professor James Williamson, Glasgow:—From the *Presbytery* of Lorn, Mr Ludovick Grant at Ardchattan, Dr Joseph MacIntyre at Glenorchy, *Ministers*; John Campbell, Esq; of Lochend, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Mull, Mr Norman MacLeod at Morvern, Mr Dugal Campbell at Kilfinichen, *Ministers*; Allan MacDougal of Hayfield, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Dunkeld, Mr William Inverarity at Caputh, Mr James-Peter Bannerman at  
D Cargill,

Cargill, Mr William Chalmers at Auchtergaven, Mr George Baird at Dunkeld, *Ministers*; Thomas Elder, Esq; of Forneth, David Stewart, Esq; Banker in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of Perth, Mr David Beatson at Dumbarnie, Mr John Dow at Methven, Mr William Duncan at Abernethy, Mr William Lang at Arngask, *Ministers*; Mr John Caw, merchant, late Provost of Perth, Mr James Dickson, bookseller in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of Stirling, Mr James Frame at Alloa, Mr John Muschet at Stirling, *Ministers*; William Morehead, Esq; of Herbertshire, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of Stirling, William Anderson, Esq; eldest bailie of the burgh:—From the *Presbytery* of Auchterarder, Mr Andrew Duncan at Auchterarder, Mr James Ramsay at Maderty, Mr John Baird at Dunning, *Ministers*; the Honourable Henry Erskine, Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Dunblane, Mr Robert Stirling at Dunblane, Mr Patrick Murray at Kilmadock, *Ministers*; Professor William Richardson, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Dunfermline, Mr Archibald Smith at Kinross, Mr Walter MacAlpine at Culross, Mr Allan MacLean at Dunfermline, *Ministers*; Sir Charles Preston of Valleyfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Kirkcaldie, Mr George Willis at Leslie, Mr John Usher at Kinghorn, Mr Andrew Murray at Auchterderran, *Ministers*; Alexander Park, Esq; of Lochore, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of Burntisland, Mr James Reid, schoolmaster at Burntisland:—From the *Presbytery* of Cupar, Mr Andrew Hutton at Kilmeny, Mr Andrew Walker at Collessie, Mr Peter Barclay at Kettle, Mr William Gourlay at Flisk, *Ministers*; the Reverend Mr Thomas Campbell, morning lecturer in Edinburgh, Mr George Tod, tenant at Moonzie, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of Cupar, Major John Melvill of Cairney:—From the *Presbytery* of St Andrew's, Mr Alexander Small at Kilconquhar, Dr George Hill, Principal of St Mary's College, and second minister of St Andrew's, Mr James MacDonald at Kemback, Mr James Burn at Forgan, *Ministers*; Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Monypenny of Pitmilley, Dr James Flint, professor of medicine in St Andrew's, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of St Andrew's, Dr Andrew Duncan, Professor of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh:—



burgh :—From the *University of St Andrew's*, Principal MacCormick, St Andrew's :—From the *Burgh of Pittenweem*, Mr Matthew Comb *senior*, brewer in Leith :—From the *Burgh of Crail*, Mr Thomas Weir, writer in Edinburgh :—From the *Burgh of Anstruther Wester*, Mr William MacCormick, late merchant in North Carolina, now residing in Edinburgh :—From the *Presbytery of Meigle*, Mr Colin Symers at Alyth, Mr James Johnston at Blairgowrie, Mr James Donald at Glenisla, *Ministers* ; Sir William Ramsay of Banff, Baronet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Forfar*, Mr David Fernie at Kinnettles, Mr Thomas Wright at Roscobie, *Ministers* ; Alexander Watson, Esq; *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Forfar*, Robert Graham of Fintry, Esq;—From the *Presbytery of Dundee*, Dr Robert Small at Dundee, Mr James Adamson at Abernyte, Mr James Scott at Auchterhouse, *Ministers* ; Mr Alexander Pitcairn, insurance-broker in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Aberbrothock*, Mr John Aitken at St Vigean, Mr John Gowans at Lunan, *Ministers* ; the Right Honourable William Earl of Northesk, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Aberbrothock*, Mr Thomas Duncan, writer in Edinburgh :—From the *Presbytery of Brechin*, Mr James Lawder at Dun, Mr James Wilson at Marytoun, Mr John Waugh at Menmuir, *Ministers* ; James Wauchope, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Brechin*, Adam Gillies, Esq; advocate :—From the *Presbytery of Fordoun*, Mr Patrick Stewart at Kinneff, Mr James Walker at Dunnottar, Mr William Walker at Ecclesgreig, *Ministers* ; John Burnet, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Aberdeen*, Mr James Hogg at Skene, Mr James Shirrefs at Aberdeen, Mr Alexander John Forsyth at Belhelvie, Mr Hugh Hay at Aberdeen, *Ministers* ; William Robertson, Esq; advocate, procurator for the Church, John Gordon, Esq; of Craig, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Marischall College Aberdeen*, Dr Robert Hamilton, Professor of Philosophy in that University ;—From the *Presbytery of Kincardin O'Neal*, Mr Robert Michy at Cluny, Mr Charles MacHardy at Crathy, Mr Alexander Robertson at Coul, *Ministers* ; William MacDonald of Rineaton, Esq; *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Alford*, Mr John Gordon at Strathdon, Mr Thomas Birnie at Alford, Mr Andrew Marshall at Tullynesle, *Ministers* ; James Gordon, Esq;

Esq; younger of Craig :—From the *Presbytery of Elton*, Mr William Duff at Foveran, Mr Alexander Cock at Cruden, *Ministers* ; Professor Thomas Gordon, Aberdeen, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Garioch*, Mr James Douglas at Premnay, Mr George Skene Keith at Keithhall, Mr John Harper at Leslie, *Ministers* ; William Gordon younger of Rothney, Esq; *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Deer*, Dr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr James Greig at Pitligo, Mr William Greig at Longside, *Ministers* ; Mr John Taylor, clerk to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Turriff*, Mr George Abel at Drumblade, Mr Thomas Wilson at Gamrie, *Ministers* ; Bailie James Morison, merchant in Leith, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Fordyce*, Mr Robert Grant at Cullen, Mr Alexander Humphry at Fordyce, *Ministers* ; Mr George Andrew, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder* : From the *Burgh of Cullen*, John Gordon younger of Cairnfield, Esq; advocate :—From the *Presbytery of Strathbogie*, Mr Alexander Chalmers at Cairnie, Mr Francis Forbes at Grange, *Ministers* ; Mr Baron Gordon, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Aberloach*, Mr Francis Grant at Knockando, Mr George Cruickshank at Rothes, *Ministers* ; Isaac Grant, Esq; of Hilton, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Abernethy*, Mr John Grant at Abernethy, Mr John Anderson at Kingussie, *Ministers* ; Dr Gregory Grant, Physician in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Elgin*, Mr Joseph Anderson at Birnie, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, *Ministers* ; Mr Thomas Gordon, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Elgin*, William Scott, Esq; Banker in Edinburgh :—From the *Presbytery of Forres*, Mr John MacDonnel at Edinkillie, Mr William Stephen at Rafford, *Ministers* ; Robert Urquhart, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Nairn*, Mr Pryse Campbell at Ardersier, Mr John Morison at Nairn, *Ministers* ; Mr Alexander Grant, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Inverness*, Mr George Watson at Inverness, Mr Alexander Gordon at Daviot, *Ministers* ; Simon Fraser of Faralin, Esq; *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Chanonry*, Mr Roderick MacKenzie at Kilmuir Wester, Mr David Denoon at Killearnen, *Ministers* ; Convener John Lindsay, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Tain*, Mr George Douglas

glas at Tain, Mr John Urquhart at Fearn, *Ministers*; Charles Ross, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of Tain, Robert Colt, Esq; of Auldham:—From the *Presbytery* of Dingwall, Mr John Frazer at Kilmorack, Mr Donald Mackenzie at Fodderty, *Ministers*; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Abertarph, Mr Thomas Ross at Kilmanivaig, Mr James Grant at Urquhart, *Ministers*; William Tait, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Sky, Mr Martin MacPherson at Slate, Mr Malcolm MacLeod at Snizort, *Ministers*; the Right Honourable Alexander Lord MacDonald, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Lochcarron, Mr John MacQueen at Applecrofs, Mr Lauchlan MacKenzie at Lochcarron, *Ministers*; Colonel Norman MacLeod of MacLeod, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Dornoch, Mr George Rannie at Criech, Mr Æneas MacLeod at Rogart, *Ministers*; Robert Bruce Æneas MacLeod of Cadboll, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Tong, Mr William MacKenzie at Tong, Mr James Dingwall at Farr, *Ministers*; Mr William MacLean, merchant in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Caithness, Mr Patrick Nicolson at Thurso, Mr William Smith at Bower, *Ministers*; John Dickson, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of Wick, James Horne, Esq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery* of Kirkwall, Mr George Barry at Kirkwall and St Olay, Mr James Watson at South Ronaldshay, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Youngson, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of Kirkwall, Malcolm Laing, Esq; advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of Cairstone, Mr Francis Liddell at Orphir, Mr John Malcolm at Firth at Stenness, *Ministers*; Mr Richard Richardson, merchant in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of North Isles, Mr Alexander Pitcairn at Shapenthay, Mr James Izat at Westray and Papa Westray, *Ministers*; John Grieve, Esq; Commissioner of his Majesty's Board of Excise, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Zetland, Mr William Mitchell at Tingwall, Mr James Gordon at Fetlar, *Ministers*; Professor Dalzel, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Edinburgh, Dr John Erskine, Edinburgh, Dr David Johnston, North Leith, Mr James Robertson at Ratho, Dr Thomas Hardie, Edinburgh, Mr Archibald Bonar, Crammond, *Ministers*; Allan MacConochie, Esq; advocate, Donald Smith, Esq;

Esq; Banker, Edinburgh, William Simpson, Esq; cashier to the Royal Bank of Scotland, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City of Edinburgh*, The Right Honourable James Stirling, Lord Provost of the City, Mr Orlando Hart, first Trades Councillor:—From the *University of Edinburgh*, Dr John Walker, *Minister at Collington*, and Regius Professor of Natural History in said University:—From the *Church of Campvere*, Mr James Likly at Campvere, Robert Allan, Esq; Banker in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery of Linlithgow*, Mr John Henderson at Queensferry, Mr James Paton at Torphichen, Mr William Peterkin at Ecclesmachan, Mr Hugh Meiklejohn at Abercorn, *Ministers*; Charles Hope, Esq; advocate, William Maxwell of Carridden, Esq; *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh of Linlithgow*, Robert Blair, Esq; his Majesty's Solicitor-General for Scotland:—From the *Burgh of Queensferry*, Mr Alexander MacNabb, one of the present Magistrates:—From the *Presbytery of Biggar*, Mr Bernard Haldane at Glenholm, Mr William Howe at Skirling, Mr Bryce Little at Covington, *Ministers*; John Brown, Esq; of Coultermains, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Peebles*, Mr Andrew Handyside at Lyne, Mr Alexander Forrester at Linton, *Ministers*; James Montgomery, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Peebles*, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq;—From the *Presbytery of Dalkeith*, Mr Alexander Colvill at Ormiston, Mr Walter Fisher at Cranston, Mr John Clunie at Borthwick, *Ministers*; the Right Honourable Lord Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Haddington*, Dr George Barclay at Haddington, Dr Neil Roy at Aberlady, Mr Andrew Johnston at Salton, *Ministers*; John Hamilton, Esq; of Pencaitland, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Haddington*, Richard Somner, Esq; present Dean of Guild of Haddington:—From the *Burgh of North Berwick*, Sir Hew Hamilton Dalrymple, Bart.:—From the *Presbytery of Dunbar*, Mr Alexander Davidson at Stenton, Mr John Cochran at Oldhamstocks, *Ministers*; John Anderson, of Windygoul, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Dunse*, Mr Selby Ord at Longformacus, Mr John Sked at Abbey of St Bathens, *Ministers*; Matthew Sandilands, Esq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Churnside*, Mr George Cupples at Swinton, Dr Walter Anderson at Churnside, *Ministers*; George Buchan of Kello, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—  
From

From the *Presbytery* of Kelfo, Mr Andrew Bell at Roxburgh, Mr William Blackie at Yetholm, *Ministers*; the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, one of his Majesty's Secretaries of State, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Fedburgh*, Mr William Paton at Eckford, Mr William Scott at Southdean, Mr John Hunter at Oxnam, *Ministers*; the Reverend Dr Andrew Brown residing in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lauder*, Dr Alexander Duncan at Smalholm, Dr James Ford at Lauder, *Ministers*; Captain John Pringle of Georgefield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Selkirk*, Mr Frederick MacLagan at Melrose, Mr James Hay at Robertson, *Ministers*; William Elliot younger of Borthwickbrae, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Selkirk*, Mr James Rothead, late merchant in Edinburgh:—And the GENERAL ASSEMBLY added thereto Sir Henry Moncreiff-Wellwood, one of the *Ministers* of *St Cuthbert's*, in place of the Moderator, TO BE COMMISSIONERS of this General Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftner, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully empowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon  
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the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here inserted; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books and pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission, to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise, to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correspondence with the Committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they shall

shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies one thousand seven hundred and twelve, and one thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Assembly one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Assembly held in the year one thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission; and such of the members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same: And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlement of vacant churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been some time the practice, but shall allow the same to lie over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th act of the Assembly one thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.—And if the Commission approve of the report to be made to them by the Committee appointed by this Assembly, to consider the proposals for a general augmentation of the parochial stipends, &c. they are hereby specially empowered and instructed to make application to the Legislature, for obtaining an act of Parliament for the purposes therein mentioned.

See Abridgment,  
end of Sess. 9.

mas Duncan, writer, James Wauchope, Esq; advocate, Adam Gillies, Esq; advocate, John Burnet, Esq; advocate, the Procurator, William MacDonald of Rineaton, Esq; Mr John Taylor, clerk to the Signet, Bailie James Morison, merchant in Leith, Mr George Andrew, writer in Edinburgh, Mr Baron Gordon, Isaac Grant, Esq; of Hilton, Dr Gregory Grant, physician in Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Gordon, writer to the Signet, Mr William Scott, banker in Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Grant, writer to the Signet, Simon Frazer, Esq; of Faraline, Convener John Lindsay, Edinburgh, Charles Ross, Esq; advocate, Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, writer to the Signet, William Tait, Esq; advocate, Lord MacDonald, Mr William MacLean, merchant in Edinburgh, John Dickson, Esq; advocate, Mr James Horne, writer to the Signet, Mr Alexander Youngson, writer in Edinburgh, Malcolm Laing, Esq; advocate, Mr Richard Richardson, merchant in Edinburgh, Commissioner Grieve, Professor Dalzel, Allan MacConochie, Esq; Donald Smith, Esq; William Simpson, Esq; the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Mr Orlando Hart, Mr Robert Allan, banker, Charles Hope, Esq; advocate, Mr Solicitor-General, James Montgomery, Esq; advocate, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq; the Lord Advocate, Matthew Sandilands, Esq; the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, William Elliot, Esq; advocate, Mr James Rothead, late merchant, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*; to BE A COMMITTEE of this Assembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty for these ends, according to, and in terms of His Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to His Majesty's design, expressed in His warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes, in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of  
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good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation; prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and, in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee, to have a particular regard in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Assemblies: And to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their registers, the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, That they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts; and that every Catechist who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners or gentlemen of the district shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to

the Cashier, a declaration that he has received the particular sum specified; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall in like manner bear, that the Catechist has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no such declaration of the Catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the Cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the Catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty. That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned, who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named, as members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers; and the said Committee are appointed to have their first general meeting at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of the first of the stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly; their second meeting (which is for fixing the annual scheme), upon the second Thursday of July, with power to those members who shall then be present, to adjourn; and their other two general meetings the first lawful days after the stated meetings of the Commission of the General Assembly, in November and March, within the Assembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday  
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next thereafter, at the said hour ; with power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient : And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and assistance ; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the Commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the same, as he shall be directed and ordered by the foresaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be ministers ; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lie on the table till another meeting ; and in the mean time the person complained of, and the Presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just account of the matter, against the next meeting. And it is farther appointed, That after the yearly scheme of missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their answer to these letters, at farthest with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner ; and that the Committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves ; and if they cannot

the Cashier, a declaration that he has received the particular sum specified; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall in like manner bear, that the Catechist has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no such declaration of the Catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the Cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the Catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty. That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned, who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named, as members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers; and the said Committee are appointed to have their first general meeting at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of the first of the stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly; their second meeting (which is for fixing the annual scheme), upon the second Thursday of July, with power to those members who shall then be present, to adjourn; and their other two general meetings the first lawful days after the stated meetings of the Commission of the General Assembly, in November and March, within the Assembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday  
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## VIII

Edinburgh, May 25. 1792.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, agreeable to a former resolution, proceeded to consider the Report of the Committee on the Overture respecting the licensing of Probationers; and having heard the amendments made on the printed Overture read over one by one, the Assembly did, after maturely considering the same, adopt them, with a few corrections and alterations: And the Assembly having resolved to transmit this Overture, so amended, to the different Presbyteries, that they may send up their opinions de novo on the various parts thereof, to the next General Assembly, the same is hereby transmitted accordingly, as follows:

## New Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers.

Edinburgh, May 25. 1792. Sess. 8.

THE General Assembly having taken under their serious consideration, the great danger to which the interests of Religion and of this Church may be exposed, by licensing any to preach the Gospel, who are not duly qualified for that important trust, do hereby enact, and ordain, That, in all time coming, the following regulations shall be strictly observed:

I. It is hereby enacted, That no Student shall be entered upon the Roll of any Professor of Divinity, unless he shall produce to the said Professor a certificate from the Minister of the parish in which he has his usual residence; or in his absence, or during a vacancy in said parish, from some neighbouring Minister, bearing, that his character is suitable to his views; together with a diploma of Master of Arts, or certificates from the several Professors of Philosophy, under whom he hath studied, from which it may be clearly ascertained, that in some University or Universities, he hath gone through a full course of Philosophy,

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fophy, in some winter-sessions of College preceding that in which the certificates are produced.

II. The General Assembly do likewise hereby ordain, That all Students who have been inrolled by Professors of Divinity, in the manner prescribed by this act, shall continue to prosecute the study of Divinity, for the term of six Sessions : Provided always, That if any Student hath given regular attendance in the Divinity Hall, during three Sessions, his Course shall be considered as completed in four Sessions ; and that if he hath given regular attendance in the Hall during two Sessions, his Course shall be considered as completed in five Sessions. And the Assembly do farther ordain, That in each of these cases, Students shall be inrolled by the Professors during the several Sessions of their respective Courses, and deliver in the Divinity Hall, in the manner herein afterwards provided, an Exegesis in Latin, on some controverted Head in Divinity, a Homily in English, an Exercise and Addition, a Lecture on some large portion of Scripture, and a popular Sermon, together with such other Exercises as the Professors shall think proper to prescribe. And the Assembly farther enact, and declare, That a Student is entitled to apply to the Professor for his certificates, that he may be proposed for trials, and that the preliminary steps may be taken by the Presbytery, during the currency of the last Session of his Course, as above described ; with this limitation, that if the said last Session is to be claimed as a Session of regular attendance, he shall, towards the conclusion thereof, obtain a new certificate of his attendance during its currency, and produce the same to the Presbytery, or Synod.

III. Professors of Divinity are required to attend, as much as circumstances may permit, to the conduct of such Students as are under their care, and, as far as they find it practicable, to insist, that every Student shall deliver his first Discourse some time during his second Session, at the latest, and the remainder of his Discourses at such periods as may enable him to deliver the whole of them before the end of January, of the last Session of his Course.

IV.

IV. When a Student is proposed to any Presbytery, in order to be taken upon trials, the Presbytery shall be alone, and the motion for that purpose shall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting. In the mean time, the Presbytery shall appoint the Member by whom the Student has been proposed, to lay before the said meeting the certificate, or certificates in favour of the Student, that are specified in the third paragraph of the fifth section of this Act; to desire him to attend the same; and to inform him, that, previously to the meeting, he ought, as far as circumstances may permit, to wait on such Ministers of the Presbytery as have not formerly had an opportunity of conversing with him in private.

V. When the time appointed for considering the motion is arrived, the Presbytery shall strictly observe the following regulations:

1<sup>st</sup>, The Presbytery shall be alone, while they are employed in discussing the several preliminaries respecting Students who are proposed for trials.

2<sup>d</sup>, They shall require satisfying evidence, that every Student who is proposed for that purpose, has completed the twenty-first year of his age.

3<sup>d</sup>, No Student shall be admitted to trials, unless he produces to the Presbytery, a certificate or certificates from the Professor or Professors of Divinity, under whose tuition he hath studied, bearing, that he hath prosecuted his studies, and delivered his Discourses, in the manner prescribed by this act; and that his conduct, as far as consists with the knowledge of the said Professor, or Professors, has been in every respect suitable to his views in life. And the General Assembly do likewise hereby enact, That the Presbytery shall record at full length the said certificate, or certificates, in their minutes: And it is hereby enacted and declared, That the Student having lodged such certificate, or certificates, shall be entitled to obtain extracts of the same, if demanded.

4<sup>th</sup>, No Presbytery shall receive any Student upon trials, unless they are satisfied that he is of good report; sound in his principles; pious, sober, grave, and prudent, in his behaviour; of a peaceable disposition; and well affected to the happy establishment in this kingdom, both in Church and State. And, that the Presbytery may proceed with all due caution, in a  
matter

matter of such peculiar importance, they shall not agree to the motion in behalf of the Student, unless his residence, during the year preceding, has been chiefly within their bounds, or he shall produce sufficient testimonials from the Presbytery, in whose bounds his residence has chiefly been, during that term, bearing, that his character is such as is described in the immediately preceding sentence of this paragraph, and recommending him, in these respects, to the Presbytery before whom the proposal is made, as a proper person to be entered upon trials.

5th, The Presbytery shall not agree to the motion in favour of the Student, unless they are satisfied, that he has made a competent degree of proficiency in those several branches of knowledge, which are necessary to enable him to be an useful Preacher of the Gospel. And the General Assembly ordain, that the Presbytery, in order to procure full information in this respect, shall examine the Student, strictly, and privately, on his knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, and of Philosophy and Theology.

6th, If after these preliminary steps have been taken, the Presbytery shall be of opinion, that the Student is duly qualified in these several particulars, they shall record this opinion in their minutes, and order their clerk to write letters to the several Presbyteries within the bounds of the Provincial Synod, two kalendar months at least before the meeting of the same, informing them of the Presbytery's intention to take the Student upon Public Trials, and bearing, that the certificate, or certificates in his favour, which are required by this act, have been regularly laid before them. But it is hereby provided, That within the bounds of such Synods as meet only once a-year, a Student may be entitled to have these circular letters written half a-year sooner than would be otherwise competent.

VI. The General Assembly do likewise hereby enact and declare, That, at the request of the Student, it shall be competent to any Presbytery to transfer the receiving of the public trials, or any part thereof, certifying to the Presbytery to which the transference is to be made, that the various preliminary steps have been taken according to the directions of this act; and that such parts of the public and private trials as have been already gone through, have been received with approbation.

VII.



VII. If a Student hath studied, either in whole or in part, in Protestant Universities which are not within the bounds of this Church, he shall, when he is proposed to any Presbytery for trials, be required to produce satisfying testimonials from the Professors of Divinity in said Universities; and the time which these Professors shall certify to have been employed by him in studying Divinity under their tuition, shall be computed in the same manner as if he had prosecuted his studies in any of the Universities within the bounds of this Church. But it is hereby provided, That no Student, in such circumstances, shall be admitted even to those private trials which are appointed to be taken before the writing of the circular letters, sooner than six kalendar months after his arrival in Scotland.

VIII. The General Assembly ordain, That if a presbytery propose to take a Student upon public trials, and have, with that view, written the circular letters, as is herein required, public intimation thereof shall be made at some diet of the next meeting of the Provincial Synod, which shall not be the last diet thereof: And the Presbytery clerk is hereby required to transmit to the Synod clerk an extract of the certificate, or certificates laid before the Presbytery, in favour of the Student, in order that the same may be produced at this diet of the Synod. And it is likewise hereby ordained, That at some subsequent diet of the Synod, particular enquiry shall be made, whether any of the Members of the Court has any objection to offer against the Student being entered upon public trials: And that the Synod then taking into consideration, the extract produced, and the whole of the case, shall judge of the expediency of allowing the Presbytery to admit the Student on trials: Or if in any case the Presbytery clerk shall fail to transmit the extracts of the certificates above mentioned, the Student may produce, to the Synod, by himself, or by any Member of the Court, the extract of the same, which by this act he is entitled to obtain.

IX. If the Synod shall allow the Student to be taken upon public trials, the Presbytery shall proceed therein with all convenient speed; and the Assembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the Student, and in the order herein mentioned: 1<sup>st</sup>, Catechetic trials on Divinity, Chronology and Church History; 2<sup>d</sup>, A trial on the Hebrew and Greek languages;

3d, An Exegeſis in Latin on ſome controverted Head in Divinity; 4th, A Homily in Engliſh; 5th, An Exerciſe and Addition; 6th, A Lecture on ſome large portion of Scripture; 7th, A popular Sermon; it being underſtood, that if the Presbytery ſee cauſe, they may examine the Student upon the ſubject of theſe ſeveral Diſcourſes.

X. The Student having gone through the ſeveral trials which are mentioned in the immediately preceding ſection of this act, the Presbytery are ordained to proceed in the following order:

1ſt, They ſhall, deliberately and ſeriously, take a conjunct view of the whole trials; and if they ſhall be of opinion, that the Student is not properly qualified to perform the duties incumbent on a Preacher of the Goſpel, they ſhall, by no means, grant him a Licence, in his preſent circumſtances.

2d, If, upon this review of the trials, the Presbytery are fully ſatisfied therewith, they ſhall record this opinion in their minutes.

3d, The Presbytery ſhall then propoſe to the Student the queſtions that are appointed to be put to all who paſs Trials by act 10th Aſſembly 1711, and require him to ſubſcribe the *Formula* which is preſcribed by the ſaid act. And the General Aſſembly ſtrictly prohibit all Presbyteries from licenſing any Student to preach the Goſpel, who ſhall not give explicit and ſatisfying answers to theſe queſtions, and ſubſcribe the ſaid *Formula*.

4th, The Presbytery ſhall order the Act of Aſſembly 1759, againſt Simoniacal practices, to be read to the Student in their preſence.

*Laſtly*, The Presbytery ſhall appoint their Moderator to licence the Student to preach the Goſpel, and order their clerk to furniſh him with an extract of his licence.

XI. For the better obſervance of this act, the General aſſembly ordain, 1ſt, That it ſhall be printed among their other printed acts; 2d, That it ſhall be printed by itſelf, in ſome convenient form; 3d, That a copy of this ſeparate edition ſhall be transmitted to each Profeſſor of Divinity in the Universities of Scotland; and that the ſaid Profeſſors ſhall read the ſame in their reſpective Halls, once at leaſt during every Seſſion, and at ſuch times as they have reaſon to expect

pect the attendance of the greatest number of Students for that Session ; and, *lastly*, That a copy of the same edition shall likewise be transmitted to the clerks of each Synod, and Presbytery, within the bounds of this Church, and that the said clerks shall keep the same along with their minutes, and bring it up to each meeting of their respective Courts, for the use of the Members.

## IX.

Edinburgh, May 28. 1792. *Seff. ult.*

**THE ASSEMBLY** recommends to *Presbyteries* to take the following *Overture* into consideration at an early diet, and send up their opinions upon the same to next Assembly.

# Overture respecting the Annexation and Suppression of Parishes.

**T**HAT the Assembly, in all proposed cases of annexation and suppression, do enjoin Presbyteries to communicate to the Synod or the bounds the proposal that is made; that although it does not appear to them proper for the Church to give any opposition, it shall not be competent for them to express their consent to the proposed annexation and suppression, either by a deliverance in their minutes, or at the bar of the court of teinds, until they have obtained the consent of the Synod of the bounds; and further, that when they resolve to give opposition to any proposed annexation or suppression, they shall communicate their resolution, together with the grounds of their opposition, and the directions which they have given thereanent, to the Synod of the bounds.

**X.**

mas Duncan, writer, James Wauchope, Esq; advocate, Adam Gillies, Esq; advocate, John Burnet, Esq; advocate, the Procurator, William MacDonald of Rineaton, Esq; Mr John Taylor, clerk to the Signet, Bailie James Morison, merchant in Leith, Mr George Andrew, writer in Edinburgh, Mr Baron Gordon, Isaac Grant, Esq; of Hilton, Dr Gregory Grant, physician in Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Gordon, writer to the Signet, Mr William Scott, banker in Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Grant, writer to the Signet, Simon Frazer, Esq; of Faraline, Convener John Lindsay, Edinburgh, Charles Ross, Esq; advocate, Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, writer to the Signet, William Tait, Esq; advocate, Lord MacDonald, Mr William MacLean, merchant in Edinburgh, John Dickson, Esq; advocate, Mr James Horne, writer to the Signet, Mr Alexander Youngson, writer in Edinburgh, Malcolm Laing, Esq; advocate, Mr Richard Richardson, merchant in Edinburgh, Commissioner Grieve, Professor Dalzel, Allan MacConochie, Esq; Donald Smith, Esq; William Simpson, Esq; the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Mr Orlando Hart, Mr Robert Allan, banker, Charles Hope, Esq; advocate, Mr Solicitor-General, James Montgomery, Esq; advocate, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq; the Lord Advocate, Matthew Sandilands, Esq; the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, William Elliot, Esq; advocate, Mr James Rothead, late merchant, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*; TO BE A COMMITTEE of this Assembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty for these ends, according to, and in terms of His Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to His Majesty's design, expressed in His warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes, in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good

good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation; prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and, in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee, to have a particular regard in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Assemblies: And to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their registers, the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, That they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts; and that every Catechist who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners or gentlemen of the district shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to

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# A B R I D G M E N T

O F T H E

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the CHURCH of SCOTLAND, held at Edinburgh in the year 1792, which are not printed at full length.

*Thursday, May 17. 1792. Sess. 1.*

**A**FTER Sermon by the Reverend Dr ROBERT SMALL, one of the Ministers of Dundee, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders convened in the Assembly-house in the usual manner: And, after prayer by the said Dr Robert Small, the Reverend Dr ANDREW HUNTER, one of the Ministers of the City, and Professor of Divinity in the University of Edinburgh, being unanimously chosen Moderator, he, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The KING's Commission to the Right Honourable DAVID Earl of LEVEN, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The Commissioner's speech at the opening of the Assembly, and the Moderator's speech in return thereto.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

A congratulatory address to his Majesty on the marriage of his Royal Highness the Duke of York with the Princess Royal of Prussia; agreed to and a Committee appointed to prepare the same.

A Committee named for revising the Commissions to the Members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof, naming Ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, and receiving Lists of Probationers in the several Presbyteries in order to their being recorded.

A Committee for Overtures named.

A Committee for bills, references, and appeals, named.

Adjournment.

*Friday, May 18. 1792. Sess. 2.*

*Sederunt.*

A diet spent in prayer.

New Commissions produced.

Act VII. of the Assembly 1718. for the better dispatch of the business of the Assembly read, and the observation thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the Commissioner.

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The Committee for revising Commissions appointed to meet this evening at a quarter before seven o'clock.

The Committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening at seven o'clock, in the usual places.

Adjournment.

Saturday May 19. 1792. Sess. 3.

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

The Report of the Committee appointed by last Assembly on the overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers given in, and ordered to lie on the table till Monday.

See Printed Acts, No. III. The draught of an answer to the King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly being brought in and approved, his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertook to transmit the same to his Majesty.

and No. IV. The draught of the congratulatory address to his Majesty on the marriage of his Royal Highness the Duke of York with the Princess Royal of Prussia, being brought in and approved, his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, likewise undertook to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The Report of the Committee for overtures given in and read.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Paisley, "That it is dated on the 28th of February, which is " nine days too soon, or before the 70 days; and that a " Member stated this to be a mistake of the Presbytery " Clerk, as it was consistent with his knowledge, that the " election was made on the 28th of March." And the Record of the Presbytery, which had been sent for, being produced, and the election having been found really to have been made on the 28th of March, the Assembly sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the Burgh of New Galloway, "That the words *as an Elder*, are omitted in " the Commission itself, though found in the attestations " of the Kirk-session and Presbytery." The Assembly unanimously repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

The roll of causes transmitted by the Committee for bills, called for, produced, and read.

Agreed to take up the cause of Inverkeithing on Monday, and the cause against the Minister of Girthon, as the first private cause on Tuesday.

A Committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the Commission of the last General Assembly.

A Committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the Committee appointed by last Assembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

A Committee named to audite and revise the accounts of the procurator and agent for the Church, and other public accounts,



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counts, consider the state of the Church's public money, and prepare overtures about the same.

The Committee for overtures appointed to meet this evening, and empowered to receive from the several Members, any instructions given to them by the respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereon to the Assembly, and to receive and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and Superstition, and prepare overtures for preventing and suppressing thereof.

The Committee of bills appointed to meet this evening.

Adjournment.

*Monday, May 21. 1792. Sess. 4.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

Report of the Committee for overtures, called for, given in, and read.

The reports on the overtures respecting the Licencing of Probationers re-committed.

Report of the Committee for bills called for, produced, and read.

Synod-books called for.

A Committee appointed to revise the Synod-book of Fife.

None of the other Synod-books, nor the Presbytery-book of Zetland being produced, the Assembly recommend to the several Synods to be punctual in sending up their books for the future; and enjoin the Synod-clerks to attend to this recommendation, as they shall be answerable for their conduct to the Assembly; and that this recommendation and injunction be inserted in the printed Acts of the Assembly.

See Printed Acts,  
No. VII.

The cause of Inverkeithing delayed till Wednesday.

Agree to take up the cause of Gigha to-morrow, if there is time after the cause of Girthon.

The Committee for considering of a Monument to the Memory of the late Dr Webster appointed to meet this evening.

The Committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

*Tuesday, May 22. 1792. Sess. 5.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

The report of the Committee appointed by last Assembly to consider of a Monument to the Memory of the late Dr Webster, was given in, and read.

The report of the Committee on the Horse-tax was given in, and read, and agreed to be considered on Thursday.

The report of the Committee for overtures was called for, given in, and read.

The consideration of the overture respecting the Licencing of Probationers, which had been appointed for Thursday, delayed till Friday; and the overture respecting the Slave-trade to be considered on Thursday.

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A Committee appointed to revise the Synod-book of Lothian and Tweeddale

Agreed to take up the cause of the parish of Contin on Friday, and the overture respecting the annexation and suppression of parishes on Saturday.

The report of the Committee for bills was called for, given in, and read.

The Committees for revising the Commission Record, and Royal Bounty Record, appointed to meet to-morrow morning.

A reference by the Presbytery of Kirkcudbright of the relevancy of a libel, at the instance of James Kirkpatrick in Gatehouse, and others, elders and heads of families in the parish of Girthon, against Mr John Macnaught, Minister of the Gospel at Girthon, heard: The Assembly found the libel relevant, and appointed the Presbytery of Kirkcudbright to proceed to take probation, and to bring this cause to a conclusion, according to the rules of the Church.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet to-morrow at ten o'clock.

Adjournment.

*Wednesday, May 23. 1792. Sess. 6.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

The Committees for bills, and on public accounts, &c. appointed to meet to-morrow.

An appeal at the instance of Mr Samuel Peat, preacher of the Gospel, presentee to the vacant parish of Gigha and Cara, from a sentence of the Synod of Argyle, heard: The Assembly, after reasoning without a vote, affirmed the sentence of the Synod of Argyle, in so far as it finds, that the Presbytery of Kintyre had full right and power to examine Mr Peat upon his knowledge of the Gaelic language, and that Mr Peat was in duty bound to submit to such examination: But in respect that the said Mr Samuel Peat has declared, by his counsel at the bar of the Assembly, that he is sensible of the impropriety of his past conduct in disobeying the Presbytery of Kintyre and that he is now willing to submit to their appointments, the Assembly remit Mr Peat to the said Presbytery, to be tried by them upon his knowledge of the Gaelic language; enjoin him to attend their first ordinary meeting upon Tuesday, the 17th day of July next, and recommend to the Presbytery of Kintyre, if they find him properly qualified as to the Gaelic language, to proceed in his settlement, as Minister of the parish of Gigha and Cara, with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church.

Dr William Porteous appeared at the bar, and intimated to the Assembly, that a complaint entered by him and others, against a sentence of the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, in April last, allowing the Presbytery of Hamilton to proceed to the probationary trials of Mr Ewing, was now fallen from. The Assembly therefore declared the said complaint fallen from accordingly.

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The Assembly heard a petition for Mr Andrew Robertson, preacher, presentee to the parish of Inverkeithing; a petition of the Magistrates, Guildry, and Town-council of the Burgh of Inverkeithing, and of the Incorporation of Tailors, &c. in the said Burgh; the inhabitants of North Queensferry, &c.; and a petition of James Bell, &c. Members of the Kirk-session of Inverkeithing. The Assembly then heard the parties on the preliminary point, Whether the two appeals should be considered and judged of together or separately: And after reasoning, they heard parties on the first appeal of the 11th of October 1791, from the sentence of the Synod of Fife, sustaining the call to the presentee; and they, without a vote, affirmed the sentence of the Synod of Fife and Presbytery of Dunfermline, sustaining the call to Mr Andrew Robertson, presentee to the Church and parish of Inverkeithing, and remit to the Presbytery of Dunfermline, to proceed to the settlement of the said presentee, with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church. The Assembly next heard the parties on the second appeal of the 10th of April 1792, and, without a vote, reversed the sentence of the Synod of Fife, finding, "That certain prerequisites, previous to the giving the libel, having been omitted by the libellers, the Presbytery of Dunfermline did right in rejecting the libel, on account of this informal procedure." And in respect that Mr Robertson, by his counsel, has at the bar declared, that he waves every objection in point of form which he might have stated respecting the service; and that he has earnestly craved, that the relevancy of the libel may be judged of with all possible expedition: The Assembly considering the said consent, and the other circumstances of the case, appoint the Presbytery of Dunfermline, to meet at Dunfermline on Friday next, at twelve o'clock; and, for that end, they appoint the Moderator of the said Presbytery, to issue Letters of Summons to the Members. And the Assembly ordain, that the libel shall then be put into the hands of Mr Robertson, and that the same, conform to his consent, shall be held, as a legal service; and appoint the Presbytery immediately to proceed to hear parties on the relevancy, and either to pronounce judgment thereon, or refer the same to this Assembly; it being understood, that either party who may be dissatisfied with the judgment of the Presbytery, to be pronounced on the relevancy may lodge an appeal to the Assembly on Saturday; or, if the Presbytery shall refer the question, on the relevancy, that such reference may be then lodged, so that a final judgment may be given on the said relevancy, before the rising of this Assembly; and this sentence is declared to be a sufficient citation to all parties.

Adjournment.

*Thursday, May 24. 1792. Sess. 7.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

A Letter and Petition, in name of a body of men, denominating themselves the Scots Presbytery in London, were read, and ordered to lie on the table.

The public accounts produced, and ordered to lie on the table.

Report of the Committee for bills, called for, given in, and read.

The Petition from the Presbytery of Linlithgow, respecting an irregular marriage, remitted, with other Petitions for aid out of the public funds, to the Committee on public accounts.

After reasoning upon the report of the Committee on the Horse-tax, the Assembly having unanimously resolved, That the case should be tried by the courts of law, appointed a Committee to prepare a motion, respecting the most effectual method of carrying this resolution into execution, and to report on Saturday.

Agreeable to a former resolution, the Assembly proceeded to consider the following overture, viz. "It is humbly over-  
tured to the General Assembly, that they should express  
" their abhorrence of the injustice and cruelty of the African  
" Slave-trade; their joy in the enlightened views which  
" have been taken of this subject, and in the liberal senti-  
" ments concerning it that have been expressed by the  
" Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament Assembled;  
" and their ardent wishes, that this inhuman traffic may, by  
" the blessing of Providence, be speedily brought to a termi-  
" nation." Which overture the Assembly having taken under their consideration, after reasoning at considerable length, a motion was made and agreed to, without a vote: That the Assembly think themselves again called upon to testify their abhorrence of a system of traffic, incompatible with the great principles of morality and religion, and attended with circumstances of injustice and cruelty, shocking to the feelings of virtuous minds: To declare the satisfaction they have received, from the liberal views and sentiments respecting this interesting subject, entertained by people of every rank and denomination; and especially by their representatives in Parliament; and to express their ardent wishes, and earnest prayers, that this iniquitous trade may, by the blessing of divine Providence, upon the deliberations of Parliament, be speedily and completely abolished; that thus the national character may be vindicated from the charge of oppression, the cause of public virtue promoted, and an example of humanity, and enlightened policy, given by Great Britain to the other countries of Europe. And the Assembly ordered this

A B R I D G M E N T. 1792.

this declaration to be printed at full length, in the Abridgment of the Actings and Proceedings of this Assembly. Adjournment.

Friday, May 25. 1792. Sess. 8.

*Sederunt.*

The Committees for revising the Commission Record, and Royal Bounty Record, and the Synod-books, appointed to make their reports to-morrow.

The report of the Committee on the overture respecting the See Printed Acts, No. VIII. Licensing of Probationers, maturely considered by the Assembly; and the same, as now amended and altered, ordered to be transmitted to Presbyteries, that they may send up their opinions *de novo* on the various parts thereof to the next General Assembly; and the Clerks ordained to cause this overture to be printed separately, and transmitted to the Moderators of the several Presbyteries by post.

The report of the Trustees of the Fund established by Act of Parliament, for a provision to Ministers widows, &c. containing an account of their proceedings since last General Assembly, and a state of the fund under their management given in, and ordered to lie on the table till Monday: And, upon a motion, the thanks of the House were given from the Chair to Sir Henry Moncreiff-Wellwood for his fidelity, attention, and prudence, in the management of the fund.

The report of the Committee appointed to consider the subject of a general augmentation of the parochial stipends, was given in, read, and ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow, to be then considered.

An appeal at the instance of the Reverend Mr. Alexander Calder, Moderator, for himself, and in name and behalf of the other Members of the Presbytery of Dingwall; Francis Humberstone Mackenzie, Esq; of Seaforth, and other heritors of the parishes of Dingwall, Fodderty, and Contin, from a sentence of the Synod of Ross, reversing a sentence of the Presbytery of Dingwall, delaying procedure in the settlement of Mr James Dallas in the church and parish of Contin: And a petition for William Munro, and others, elders and heads of families of the parish of Contin, concurring in the settlement of Mr Dallas, heard. The Assembly, after hearing parties upon the petition of William Munro, and others, find, "That this petition, not having been previously before the Synod of Ross, cannot be taken into consideration in judging of the merits of this cause." The Assembly thereafter having heard parties upon the cause, they, without a vote, affirmed the sentence of the Synod of Ross, in so far as it ordains the Presbytery of Dingwall to proceed in the settlement of Mr Dallas in the parish of Contin, with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church.

Thereafter the Assembly, upon a motion, unanimously remitted to the procurator and agent for the Church, to oppose the proposed

*A B R I D G M E N T. 1792.*

proposed annexation and suppression of the parish of Contin before the Court of teinds.

Upon a motion, the Committee of bills appointed to meet to-morrow.

Adjournment.

*Saturday, May 26. 1792. Sess. 9.*

*Sederunt.*

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertson, Advocate, procurator for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him and his cautioners of the sum of L. 624 : 0 : 7½ Sterling, disbursed by him, and appointing that he take credit in his next account, for the sum of L. 124 : 0 : 7½ Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the account of Mr George Cairncroft, agent for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him of the sum of L. 237 : 16 : 1 Sterling, disbursed by him, and appointing that he debit himself in his next account, with the sum of L. 5 : 18 : 11 Sterling, being the balance due by him.

Act approving of the account of Dr William Gloag, Sub-clerk of Assembly, and exonerating and discharging him of the sum of L. 41 : 6 : 9 Sterling disbursed by him, and appointing that he take credit in his next account, for the sum of L. 22 : 11 : 9 Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the account of the expences of the appeal in the case of Tingwall, due to John Spottiswoode, Esq; solicitor at London, and ordering payment of the sum of L. 173 Sterling, being the amount thereof.

Act approving of the account of Mr Elphinston Balfour, stationer to the Church, and ordering payment of the amount thereof.

Act approving of the account of Mr James Dickson, printer for the Church, and ordering payment of the amount thereof.

The report of the Committee on the public funds of the Church, and new applications thereanent, given in, and read, and unanimously approved of.

In respect of the particular circumstances of the case, the Assembly remitted to the procurator and agent for the Church, to attend to any process in which Dr Smith, Minister of Campbelton, may be called as a defender, for expressions used by him in his judicative capacity, when the case of Mr Peat, presentee to the parish of Gigha and Cara, was before the Synod of Argyle.

The defence of the process of suppression, and annexation of the parishes of Mains and Strathmartin, remitted to the procurator and agent for the Church, to be carried through at the public expence, and the procurator authorised to pay to the agent, the sum of L. 8 : 3 : 3 Sterling, being the expence already laid out in that process.

The

The Assembly agreed to pay particular attention to the petition of the Synod of Moray, respecting the suppression of the Church of Dundurcas, and the annexation of that parish to the parishes of Boharm and Rothes, whenever the state of the Church's funds appear to admit of it.

A Memorial for the Presbytery of Linlithgow, respecting irregular marriages being read, the Assembly dismissed the same.

The report of the visitors of the Commission record called for; the Commission's conduct approved of; thanks given to the Moderator of the Commission; and their book ordered to be attested.

The report of the Committee for naming the Members of the See Printed Acts, COMMISSION of this ASSEMBLY, and preparing instructions to No. V. them, given in, and approved of: The Assembly added thereto Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood, in place of the Moderator.

The report of the visitors of the Royal Bounty record, given in, and read; the conduct of the Managers approved of; and their book ordered to be attested.

A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this See Printed Acts, year, with a Commission, and instructions to them. No. VI.

The Synod-book of Fife ordered to be attested.

The Synod-book of Lothian and Tweeddale ordered to be attested.

The Committee on the Enzie Fund, renewed with the former powers; and Sir Henry Moncrieff, Mr Moodie, and Mr Solicitor-General added to the Committee.

The Committee on the scheme for erecting new parishes renewed, with the former powers.

The overture anent the suppression and annexation of parishes delayed till Monday.

The General Assembly, upon a motion, that in respect the next ordinary meeting of the Presbytery of Dingwall is on the first of August, appoint the said Presbytery to meet on the third Wednesday of June next, to receive the judgment of the Assembly in the cause of Contin.

The report of the Committee formerly appointed to draw up a motion, respecting the carrying into execution the Assembly's resolution, with regard to the Horse-tax, given in, and read, and unanimously approved of.

The Assembly, agreeable to a former resolution, proceeded to consider the report of the Committee on the augmentation of stipends, and the same was first read all over, and thereafter, paragraph by paragraph; and after being maturely considered, was approved of as follows, viz.

“ 1mo, That the powers of the Lords of Session, as Commis-  
 “ sioners for plantation of kirks and valuation of teinds,  
 “ shall be explained, so as to make it competent for them  
 “ to modify and augment stipends, and to pronounce de-  
 “ crees of locality for the same, in all cases, where any le-  
 M “ gal

“ gal fund of augmentation appears, whether a former aug-  
 “ mentation has taken place or not, unless where such for-  
 “ mer augmentation has been obtained within  
 “ years preceding the date of the new application so made,  
 “ all relevant objections in point of expediency, or which  
 “ may arise out of the rights and interests of other parties  
 “ concerned, being still open to be stated as heretofore, and  
 “ judged by the Court; and that in order to diminish the  
 “ expence of processes of augmentation, modification, and  
 “ locality, that the Court shall be empowered to make acts  
 “ of federunt, containing rules and regulations for expedit-  
 “ ing the business committed to them in all points, and  
 “ more especially, for abridging the forms and expence of  
 “ citation, and bringing actions or processes into Court,  
 “ and settling localities, &c.

“ 2do, That the vacant stipends, which may at any time a-  
 “ rise in each parish, shall be applied towards purchasing  
 “ lands, lying as convenient as may be, for an addition to  
 “ the glebe of that parish, and that, till a proper opportu-  
 “ nity shall occur for purchasing lands so situated, the pro-  
 “ duce of the vacant stipend shall be lent out upon good se-  
 “ curity, and the interest thereof drawn by the Minister of  
 “ the parish, over and above his former stipend; and that  
 “ in every Synod, there shall be appointed a collector, with  
 “ power to uplift the vacant stipends, and to lend out the  
 “ same, in order to be applied for the purposes above men-  
 “ tioned; it being always understood, that the vacant sti-  
 “ pends within the Synod of Argyle shall remain appli-  
 “ cable, as they are at present, by virtue of an act of Par-  
 “ liament of Scotland 1690.

“ 3tio, That it shall be competent to the Court, upon the ap-  
 “ plication of any Minister of any parish, where the glebe  
 “ or grass ground may sometimes be feued to very great ad-  
 “ vantage, to authorise such glebe or grass ground, or both  
 “ to be granted in feu, upon the best terms that can be  
 “ obtained; but so as that in no case the feu-duty shall be  
 “ less than ten bolls of wheat, Linlithgow measure, *per*  
 “ acre; and that there shall be no purchase paid at the  
 “ commencement of the feu, nor entry-money by any sin-  
 “ gular successor; and that whatever be the extent of the  
 “ feu-duty, the same shall not be paid in money, but in  
 “ grain, the Court being satisfied of the expediency of that  
 “ measure; and the transaction being executed in such way  
 “ and manner as shall be effectual to secure to the present  
 “ and future incumbents, all the advantages thence arising;  
 “ and that, upon every such application, the Presbytery of  
 “ the bounds, and the heritors of the parish, shall be called  
 “ as parties, that they may have an opportunity of stating  
 “ objections, if any such there are, to the measure pro-  
 “ posed.

“ *Acto,*



“ 4<sup>to</sup>, That Ministers stipends, if not regularly paid, shall  
 “ bear interest to the Minister from the term of pay-  
 “ ment; and that the victual part of the stipend, if not de-  
 “ livered at the term of Candlemas, shall also bear interest  
 “ from that term, according to the prices of such victual  
 “ established by the Sheriff fiars of the county.

“ 5<sup>to</sup>, That the heritors shall be bound to deliver the victual  
 “ stipend, either at the manse, or nearest market-town, or  
 “ sea-port, at the option of the Minister, not beyond  
 “ distance.

“ *Lastly*, That application shall be made to the Legislature  
 “ for an act of Parliament to carry into execution the above  
 “ propofals, if the same shall be approved of.”

Upon a motion, the Moderator, from the chair, gave the  
 thanks of the Assembly to the Solicitor-General, Convener  
 of the Committee, for the great trouble and pains taken by  
 him in this important business: And the Assembly renewed  
 the former Committee, with the addition of some Mem-  
 bers, and instructed them to digest the heads of this propo-  
 sal, which have been agreed to by the house into the form  
 of a bill; to transmit copies of this bill, if then made out;  
 and if not, the heads or substance of it betwixt and the  
 15th day of September, to the conveners of the different  
 counties, and to give in a report of their proceedings to the  
 Commission in November: And the Assembly resolve, that  
 the Commission shall be specially empowered and instructed,  
 if they approve of the said report, to make application to the  
 Legislature for obtaining an act of Parliament, for the pur-  
 poses therein mentioned. See Printed Acts,  
at the end of  
No. V.

Upon a motion, the Committee of bills appointed to meet to-  
 morrow.

Adjournment.

*Monday, May 28. 1792. Sess. ult.*

*Sederunt.*

Upon a motion, the Assembly appointed Dr Hill, Dr Hardy,  
 Sir Henry Moncreiff, Dr David Johnston, Ministers; the  
 Lord President, Lord Advocate, Mr Solicitor-General, the  
 Procurator, and Mr Dalzel, Ruling Elders, as a Commit-  
 tee, to consider the most advisable methods of extricating  
 the funds of the Church from their present embarrassed situ-  
 ation, and appointed the Procurator Convener.

The report of the Committee for bills, called for, given in,  
 and read.

The report of the Trustees of the fund, established by act of  
 Parliament, for a provision to Ministers Widows, &c. again  
 called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register  
 kept for that purpose.

List

List of Probationers produced, their names read out, and ordered to be recorded.

The Assembly proceeded to consider the overture from the Synod of Moray, respecting the annexation and suppression of parishes, and unanimously agreed to transmit an overture to that purpose, for the consideration of Presbyteries.

See Printed Acts,  
No. IX.

The Assembly having considered a petition for Mr William Smith, Minister of Bower, and also a List of Grievances from the Presbytery of Kirkwall, did, in terms of a resolution in a similar case last Assembly, again express their sympathy with the brethren of those Presbyteries, and ordered the said papers to lie on the table, until the state of the funds of the Church shall admit of affording them aid in prosecuting their just claims before a civil court. At the same time, the Assembly earnestly wish, that such measures may be speedily adopted by the heritors within the bounds of those Presbyteries as may render this aid unnecessary.

A reference from the Presbytery of Dunfermline, respecting the libel against Mr Andrew Robertson, presentee to the Church and parish of Inverkeithing, heard: The Assembly, after reasoning, agreed, without a vote, to this judgment: In respect of the conduct of the pursuers before the Presbytery, and of their not having demanded procedure upon the libel, the Assembly declares, That the same shall be held as fallen from; and find, That there is no bar in the way of the Presbytery of Dunfermline, to prevent them from proceeding to the settlement of Mr Andrew Robertson in the Church of Inverkeithing, according to the rules of the Church: And the Assembly, at the request of the Presbytery, appoint, that the said settlement shall take place, on or before the first Thursday of September next.

Protestations admitted.

All causes brought before this Assembly, and not discussed, referred to the Commission.

A Committee named to revise the Minutes of the Assembly's Proceedings, at this and all other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of the Assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.

The Moderator's speech to the Assembly, and to his Grace the Commissioner.

The Lord High Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

See Printed Acts,  
No. X.

Act appointing next meeting of the Assembly.

The Assembly concluded with prayer, singing of psalms, and pronouncing the blessing.

THE PRINCIPAL  
A C T S  
OF THE  
General Assembly  
OF THE  
C H U R C H  
OF  
SCOTLAND,

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, THE 16th DAY OF MAY 1793.

COLLECTED AND EXTRACTED FROM THE RECORDS BY THE CLERK THEREOF.



EDINBURGH:  
PRINTED BY JAMES DICKSON, PRINTER TO THE CHURCH OF  
SCOTLAND.

M.DCC.XCIII.





THE PRINCIPAL  
A C T S  
OF THE  
General Assembly  
OF THE  
CHURCH of SCOTLAND,

Begun at EDINBURGH, the 16th day of MAY 1793,  
and concluded the 27th day of the said Month and  
Year.

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I.

The KING's Commission to DAVID Earl  
of LEVEN produced, and ordered to  
be recorded.

*Edinburgh, May 16, 1793.*

**T**HE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this national  
CHURCH being convened and constituted,  
there was produced to them, by the Right  
Honourable DAVID EARL of LEVEN, the  
KING's Commission, sealed with the seal ap-  
pointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in  
*Scotland*, in place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making  
and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner  
and

and Representative in this Assembly; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect; and ordered to be recorded in the books of Assembly;—the tenor whereof follows:

**G**EORGIUS, *Dei gratia, Magnæ Britannia, Franciæ et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor*: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentēs literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem Nos considerantes, quod Generalis Ecclesiæ Scotiæ Conventus in decimum sextum diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; Nosque abundè cupidi, et necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem ecclesiæ generalis conventus die statuto debitè observetur, atque rebus magni momenti Nos aliò vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; Nosque abundè satisfacti de sufficientiâ et fidelitate fidelissimi et prædilectissimi Nostri consanguinei Davidis Comititis de Leven, quod ad summum munus Nostri supremi Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum ritè exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus: Noveritis igitur, Nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, tenoreque præsentium, nominare, constituere, et ordinare, memoratum, fidelissimum et prædilectissimum Nostri consanguineum Davidem Comitem de Leven, supremum Nostri Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam potestatem, Commissionem, et warrantum sacram Nostram Personam et auctoritatem regalem repræsentandi, nec non præsentiam Nostram supplendi, et locum Nostri in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario Nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plenè atque liberè in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius in eodem summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si Nos ipsi personaliter præsentēs facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula quæ dictus David Comes de Leven, in hac Nostri Commissione prosequenda legitime fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, Nos firmiter approbamus, et ratificamus. Insuper omnibus et singulis dicti conventus et ecclesiæ pastoribus et presbyteris cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britannia Scotiam vocatam, subditis Nostri, cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum Davidem Comitem de Leven, tanquam supremum Nostri Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoscant et audiant, strictè mandamus et præcipimus: Atque hanc Nostri Commissionem à dicto decimo sexto die Maii, proximi incipere, et deinceps durante subsequente sessione dicti generalis conventus in vigore continuare, declaramus, vel usque dum a Nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur.

*In*

*In cujus rei testimonium, presentibus sigillum Nostrum per Unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotiâ vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus. Apud aulam Nostram apud St James's, trigesimo die mensis Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo et nonagesimo tertio, Regni que Nostrî anno trigesimo tertio.*

*Per signaturam manu S. D. N. Regis superscriptam.*

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## II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to  
the General Assembly, presented to  
them by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

**R**IGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well.—The constant proofs We have received of your Loyalty and Attachment to Our Person and Government, and of your zeal for the cultivation of sound Learning and true Religion, cannot fail of securing to you the continuance of Our Royal Favour and Protection: And it is with undiminished satisfaction, that We take this occasion of repeating to you Our Resolution to preserve and maintain the Church of Scotland in all its established Rights and Privileges. We are confident, that your proceedings will be uniformly directed, to those great and salutary objects for which you are assembled, and that you will labour to promote such Measures, as are best calculated to diffuse the Principles and Practice of Genuine Christianity, to check the progress of vice and impiety, and to instill into all ranks and descriptions of men, that attention to Moral Duties, that love of Order and Obedience to the Laws, upon which the Peace, Harmony and true Happiness of Society, so entirely depend. We have again thought fit, to appoint Our Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousin, DAVID Earl of LEVEN, to represent Our Royal

B

Person

Person in this Assembly, being well assured from his approved Merits, and his Experience and Knowledge in the administration of the Duties of the important Office entrusted to him, that he cannot but continue to be highly acceptable to you. We have only to add Our earnest desire that your proceedings may, as heretofore, be in all things marked by that unanimity, cordial Affection, and Christian Charity one towards another, which cannot fail of bringing the purposes of your meeting to a happy conclusion. And so We bid you heartily farewell.—Given at Our Court at St James's, the 8th day of May 1793, in the 33d year of Our Reign.

By his Majesty's Command,

HENRY DUNDAS.

Addressed thus :—*To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved the Moderator, Ministers, and Elders of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

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### III.

## The General Assembly's Answer to the KING's most gracious Letter.

*May it please Your Majesty,*

**T**HE gracious letter with which Your Majesty has been pleased to honour this Meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was received with the utmost respect and gratitude.

As dutiful Subjects of a virtuous and affectionate Sovereign, we have a just sense of the confidence which Your Majesty reposes in our loyalty and attachment to Your Person and Government, and in our zeal for the cultivation of Sound Learning and True Religion. We feel in it a most pleasing recompense for having done  
our



our duty ; and we trust, that our future Conduct will continue to deserve the same honourable proofs of Royal Favour and Protection.

Convinced, by long and happy experience, of Your Majesty's good disposition to the Church of Scotland, we rely, with the most perfect security, on Your resolution to maintain it in all its established Rights and Privileges. We regard the present declaration of Your Royal purpose to this effect, as a powerful encouragement to direct our Proceedings to those great Objects for which we are assembled : And it shall be our care, in compliance with Your Majesty's desire, to labour assiduously in promoting such measures as are best calculated to diffuse the Principles and Practice of Genuine Christianity, to check the progress of Vice and Impiety, and to instill into all ranks of men, that attention to moral duties ; that love of order and obedience to the laws, upon which the peace, harmony and true happiness of Society so entirely depend. These are the great ends of our public establishment ; and we deem it a peculiar felicity, that we live under a Prince, who, by reminding us of our proper work, teaches us, that the faithful discharge of our duty to God and our Country, is the most certain recommendation to his favour.

We beg leave to return our humble Thanks to Your Majesty, for Your persevering attention to the interests of Christian Knowledge and Virtue in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. We consider Your Royal Donation for this purpose as a fresh proof of Your paternal care for all your Subjects ; and we shall endeavour to apply it in such a manner, as may best promote the generous and pious design for which it is bestowed.

The hereditary and warm attachment of the Earl of LEVEN to the cause of Civil and Religious Liberty ; his affectionate regard for the Church of Scotland ; his exemplary conduct in private life ; and his approved experience and knowledge in the administration of his important office, render the re-appointment of him to represent Your Majesty's Royal Person a most acceptable mark of attention to this Assembly.

Permit us to assure Your Majesty, that it shall be our study, to conduct all our proceedings with that unanimity, cordial affection, and Christian charity to one another, which become us as the Servants of the Prince  
of

of Peace, and which are so necessary for bringing the purposes of our Meeting to a happy conclusion.

That Almighty God may protect Your Majesty's Person, prolong Your Days, and direct Your Councils; that He may bless the QUEEN, the PRINCE OF WALES, and all the Royal Family; that He may continue with us the many National Blessings, which we enjoy under Your Majesty's mild Administration, and transmit them, as a precious inheritance, to our posterity; and that, after reigning long, with wisdom and felicity, over a free, loyal, and happy people, You may receive from Him the recompense of an heavenly crown,—are the fervent Prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient, and most loyal Subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

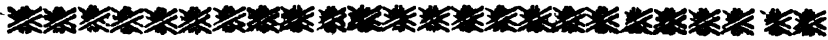
Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, }  
May 18. 1793. }

THOMAS HARDY, *Moderator.*



## IV.

The General Assembly's dutiful Address  
to His Majesty, on the subject of the  
present War.

*Most Gracious Sovereign,*

**WE**, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in the General Assembly, think it our duty, in the present situation of public affairs, to express our zeal for the welfare of our Country, and our affectionate regard for a Prince, who is the Guardian of Liberty, and the Father of his People.

We have beheld with the strongest feelings of disapprobation the insidious designs and violent attempts of the French Nation, to overturn the Constitutions, and disturb the Peace of most of the other Nations in Europe. We are fully sensible, that, in consequence of the Declaration of War by the National Convention of France against Great Britain, and by the acts of hostility in which they have been engaged, your Majesty, with the approbation of Parliament, was necessarily led to take vigorous measures for repressing their ambition, and defeating their unjust enterprizes.

Though some of the People under our care were deluded by the dangerous Principles which were industriously propagated, we can assure Your Majesty, that the great body of the Members of this National Church continues strongly attached to Your Majesty's Person and Government, and ardently desirous of the success of those measures, which, with the blessing of Providence, may transmit our excellent Constitution unimpaired to the latest Posterity.

Your Majesty has been graciously pleased to express, by the Lord High Commissioner, the sense which you entertain of the boldness and zeal with which the Ministers of the Church of Scotland manifested their loyalty upon a late trying occasion; a mark of Your Royal approbation which we received with profound respect,

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and

and which affords us the most entire satisfaction, because we are conscious that it is not misplaced.

Attached by the genius of Presbyterian Government to good order, no less than to Freedom; we have employed all our influence in counteracting the tendency of the Seditious Writings which were assiduously circulated, and in warning the People committed to our care against the busy efforts of designing or deluded men. In the true spirit of those principles which our Fathers, in former seasons of danger and alarm, strenuously asserted, we shall continue to cherish in the minds of the People, loyalty to our Gracious Sovereign, veneration for the British Constitution, and obedience to the Laws: And having nothing so much at heart as the glory of God, the honour of Your Majesty, and the support of your Government, we trust, that, while we approve ourselves the dutiful Servants of the Prince of Peace, we shall enjoy the continuance of Your Royal protection, and the good opinion of all the true Friends of their Country.

While we congratulate Your Majesty upon the check which, under Divine Providence, has already been given to the alarming progress of our Enemies, we offer our earnest supplications, that the God of Battles may continue to bless Your Fleets and Armies with success, and may bring the present War to a speedy and happy termination. That mutual love and confidence may ever subsist between Your Majesty and Your Subjects; and that a Race of Kings of Your Royal Line, lovers of Religion, Liberty, and their Country, may always sway the Sceptre over these Lands,—are the fervent Prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,  
Your Majesty's most dutiful,  
Most faithful and most obedient Subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,  
In our presence,  
And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, }  
May 18. 1793. }

THOMAS HARDY, *Moderator.*

V. Com-

## V.

COMMISSION of the General Assembly to certain Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing affairs referred to them.

Edinburgh, May 25. 1793. Sess. 9.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do nominate, commission and appoint the Reverend Dr THOMAS HARDY, one of the Ministers of the City, and *Regius* Professor of Divinity and Church History in the University of Edinburgh, their Moderator: And,—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunse*, Dr Robert Bowmaker at Dunse, Mr Johnston at Cranshaws, *Ministers*; Mathew Sandilands, Esq; of Couston, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Churnside*, Dr Walter Anderfon at Churnside, Mr George Drummond at Mordington, *Ministers*; George Buchan, Esq; of Kello, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kelfo*, Mr Robert Turnbull at Sprouston, Mr Cornelius Lundie at Kelfo, *Ministers*; Sir James Pringle of Stitchell, Bart. *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Jedburgh*, Mr William Brown at Bedrule, Mr James Rutherford at Hownam, Mr David Brown at Crailing, *Ministers*; Mr James Dickson, merchant in Hawick, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Jedburgh*, John MacFarlan, Esq; advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lauder*, Mr Alexander Duncan at Gordon, Mr Thomas Murray at Chanelskirk, *Ministers*; Thomas Cleghorn, Esq; Inspector-General for Imports and Exports for Scotland, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Lauder*, the Right Hon. James Earl of Lauderdale:—From the *Presbytery* of *Selkirk*, Mr John Sked at Lassuden, Mr George Thomson at Melrose, *Ministers*; William Elliot of Borthwickbrae, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Selkirk*, Mr George Leslie, merchant in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Annan*, Mr James Smaill at Dornock, Mr William Hardy Moncrieff

crieff at Annan, *Ministers*; Joseph Norris, Esq; of Newfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Langholm*, Mr John Russell at Cannoby, Mr William Brown at Eskdalemuir, *Ministers*; Mr James Saunders, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Lochmaben*, Mr William Sibbald at Johnston, Mr Gabriel Scott at Kirkpatrick Juxta, Dr William Bryden at Dalton, *Ministers*; Archibald Gordon, Esq; of Halleaths, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Lochmaben*, Mr William Johnston, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery of Penpont*, Mr Andrew Yorston at Closeburn, Mr James Wallace at Keir, *Ministers*; Mr John Hyslop in Killyside, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Sanquhar*, Mr John Peat, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery of Dumfries*, Mr William Wright at New Abbey, Dr Bryce Johnston at Holywood, Dr David Lamont at Kirkpatrick Durham, *Ministers*; Robert Riddell, Esq; of Glenriddell, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Kircudbright*, Mr John Johnston at Crossmichael, Mr Philip Morison at Balmaghie, Mr James Thomson at Balmaclellan, *Ministers*; Mr Andrew Muir in Woodside, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Kircudbright*, Horatius Cannan, Esq; of Barley:—From the *Burgh of New Galloway*, Mr Robert Heron, Preacher of the Gospel in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery of Wigton*, Dr James Laing at Glasserton, Mr John Steven at Mochrum, *Ministers*; John Gordon of Carleton, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Wigton*, John Bushby, Esq; Sheriff-Clerk of Dumfries:—From the *Burgh of Whitburn*, John Bushby, Esq; Sheriff-Clerk of Dumfries:—From the *Presbytery of Stranraer*, Mr John MacKenzie at Portpatrick, Mr Henry Blain at Stony Kirk, *Ministers*; Thomas Adair, Esq; of Genoch, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Stranraer*, Mr Thomas Smith, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery of Ayr*, Mr William M'Quhae at St Quivox, Mr James Wright at Maybole, Mr William Peebles at Newton upon Ayr, Mr William Thomson at Ochiltree, Mr Archibald Reid at Mauchlin, *Ministers*; John Hamilton, Esq; of Bargeny, Thomas Kennedy, Esq; of Denure, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh of Ayr*, George Fergusson, Esq; advocate:—From the *Presbytery of Irvine*, Mr Arthur Oughterson at Kilbride, Mr Stephen Rowan at Largs, Dr James Wodrow, at Stevenston, *Ministers*; the Hon. Mr Patrick Boyle of Shewalton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Paisley*, Mr Thomas Burns at Renfrew, Mr James Milne at the Abbey Parish, Mr John Brown at Kilmalcolm, Mr Robert

bert Steel of the West Parish of Greenock, *Ministers*; Robert Davidson, Esq; advocate, William Carlyle, Esq; eldest Magistrate of Paisley, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Hamilton*, Mr John Bower at Old Monkland, Mr John Lockhart at Camnethan, Dr James Meek at Cambuslang, *Ministers*; Professor George Jardine, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lanark*, Mr James Scott at Carluke, Mr George Mark at Carnwath, *Ministers*; Professor Archibald Arthur, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Lanark*, John Bannatyne, Esq; of Castlebank:—From the *Presbytery* of *Glasgow*, Mr Robert Balfour at Glasgow, Mr William Stewart at Cumbernauld, Mr James Lapslie at Campsie, Dr William Porteous at Glasgow, *Ministers*; Mr Robert Cowan, merchant in Glasgow, John Corbet, Esq; of Tolcross, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City* of *Glasgow*, Archibald Campbell, Esq; Advocate:—From the *University* of *Glasgow*, Professor Hugh M'Leod, Glasgow:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dumbarton*, Mr James Jeffray at Balfron, Mr George Sym at New Kilpatrick, Mr Andrew Whyte at Kilmaronock, *Ministers*; The Lord President, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Dumbarton*, Archibald Campbell, Esq; younger of Succoth:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunoon*, Mr Archibald MacLea at Rothsay, Mr Hugh M'Tavish at Inverchaolten, *Ministers*; John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Rothsay*, John Home, Esq; of Kilduff:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kintyre*, Mr George Robertson, and Dr John Smith at Campbelltown, Mr Francis Stewart at Jura and Colonsay, *Ministers*; Archibald Macdonald, Esq; of Sanda, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Campbelltown*, William Campbell of Fairfield, Esq;—From the *Presbytery* of *Inveraray*, Mr Paul Fraser at Inveraray, Mr Lauchlan Maclauchlan at Craignish, *Ministers*; David Campbell of Combie, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Mull*, Mr Archibald M'Coll at Tirey, Mr Alexander Fraser at Torosay, *Ministers*; Allan Macdougall, Esq; of Hayfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunkeld*, Mr Duncan M'Ara at Fortingall, Mr William Innerarity at Caputh, Mr Archibald Menzies at Dull, Mr Laurence Butter at Lethindy, *Ministers*; David Steuart, Esq; Banker in Edinburgh; John Hagart, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Pertb*, Mr Hary Inglis at Forteviot, Mr George Chapman at Kinfauns, Mr William Garvie at Aberdalgie, Mr John Dowe at Methven, *Ministers*; Mr James Dickson, bookseller in Edinburgh,

Mr Alexander Beatson, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Stirling*, Mr Robert Ure at Airth, Mr John Watson at Dollar, *Ministers* ; William Morehead, Esq; of Herbertshire, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Auchterarder*, Mr Robert Stirling at Crieff, Mr John Stevenson at Blackford, Mr George Erskine at Monzie, *Ministers* ; the Honourable Henry Erskine, Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunblane*, Mr James Robertson at Callender, Mr Duncan Stewart at Balquhiddy, *Ministers* ; Professor William Richardson, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunfermline*, Mr Robert Liston at Aberdour, Mr Andrew Robertson at Inverkeithing, Mr William Forfar at Saline, *Ministers* ; Sir Charles Preston of Valleyfield, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkcaldy*, Mr James Reid at Kinglassie, Mr Thomas Fleming at Kirkcaldy, Mr John Scott at Auchtertool, *Ministers* ; Alexander Park, Esq; of Lochore, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh* of *Kirkcaldy*, Mr Andrew Inglis :—From the *Presbytery* of *Cupar*, Mr George Campbell at Cupar, Mr David Wilkie at Culter, Mr James Lister at Auchtermuchty, Mr Andrew Thomson at Balmerino, *Ministers* ; Mr Thomas Campbell in Edinburgh, Mr David Melvill in Ceres, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Burgh* of *Cupar*, Major John Melvill of Cairnie :—From the *Presbytery* of *St Andrew's*, Dr Joseph M'Cormick, Principal of the United College, Mr William Pairman at Ely, Dr Robert Arnot, Professor of Divinity in St Mary's College, Mr James Brown at Dinny, *Ministers* ; Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Monypenny of Pitmilny, William Dalgleish, Esq; younger of Scotscraig, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Burgh* of *St Andrew's*, Dr Andrew Duncan, Professor of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh :—From the *University* of *St Andrew's*, Dr George Hill, Principal of St Mary's College :—From the *Burgh* of *Crail*, Mr Thomas Weir, writer in Edinburgh :—From the *Presbytery* of *Meikle*, Mr Charles Keay at Cupar Angus, Dr James Playfair at Meikle, Mr James Badenoch at Kingoldrum, *Ministers* ; Sir William Ramsay of Banff, Baronet, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Dundee*, Mr John Gellatly at Tealine, Mr John Anderson at Dundee, Mr Thomas Constable at Liff and Benzie, *Ministers* ; Mr Alexander Pitcairn, merchant in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Aberbrothock* Mr John Carnegie at Inverkeilor, Mr Richard Watson at Arbirlot, *Ministers* ; Mr Thomas



Thomas Milne, merchant in Canongate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Aberbrothock*, Mr Thomas Duncan, writer in Edinburgh :—From the *Presbytery of Brechin*, Mr Andrew Gray at Caraldstone, Mr Alexander Mollison at Montrose; Mr Andrew Hutton at Edzel, *Ministers*; James Wauchope, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Brechin*, Adam Gillies, Esq; advocate :—From the *Presbytery of Fordown*, Mr James Walker at Dunnotter, Mr William Walker at Eccleisgreig, Mr James Leslie at Fordown, *Ministers*; John Burnet, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Aberdeen*, Mr James Hogg at Skene, Mr James Sherriffs at Aberdeen, Mr George Morrison at Banchory-Devenick, Mr George Grant at Old Machar, *Ministers*; William Robertson, Esq; advocate, procurator for the Church, John Gordon, Esq; of Craig, *Ruling Elders* :—From *King's College Aberdeen*, Mr Roderick Macleod, Sub-principal :—From the *Presbytery of Kincardine O'Neal*, Mr William Morrice at Kincardine O'Neal, Mr Alexander Henderson at Echt, Mr George Brown at Glenmuick, *Ministers*; William MacDonald, Esq; of Rineaton *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Alford*, Mr Andrew Marshall at Tullinesle, Mr John Gordon at Strathdon, Mr Alexander Urquhart at Tough, *Ministers*; James Gordon, Esq; younger of Craig, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Garioch*, Mr John Shand at Chapel of Garioch, Mr Patrick Davidson at Rayne, Mr George Skene Keith at Keithhall, and Kinkell, *Ministers*; William Gordon, Esq; younger of Rothney, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Deer*, Mr John Lundie at Lonmay, Mr William Fraser at Tyrie, Mr James Greig at Pittligo, *Ministers*; Mr John Taylor, clerk to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Turriff*, Mr Robert Ballingall at Forglen, Mr William Dingwall at Fergie, *Ministers*; Mr Coll MacDonald, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Fordyce*, Mr George Donaldson at Ruthven, Mr Walter Chalmers at Deskford, *Ministers*; Mr George Andrew, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Strathbogie*, Mr John Cooper at Glafs, Mr James Simmie at Rothiemay, *Ministers*; Mr Baron Gordon, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Aberlour*, Mr Francis Grant at Knockando, Mr George Cruickshank at Rothes, *Ministers*; Isaac Grant, Esq; of Hilton, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Abernethy*, Mr Patrick Grant at Duthill, Mr John Gordon at Alvie, *Ministers*; Dr Gregory Grant Physician

fician in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Elgin*, Mr John Reid at Duffus, Mr William Macbaine at Alves, *Ministers* ; Mr Thomas Gordon, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh* of *Elgin*, William Scott, Esq; Banker in Edinburgh :—From the *Presbytery* of *Forres*, Mr John Macdonell at Forres, Mr John Hoyes at Kinloss, *Ministers* ; Charles Hope, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Nairn*, Mr Hugh Calder at Croy, Mr John Morison at Nairn, *Ministers* ; Alexander Grant, Esq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Inverness*, Mr William Smith at Petty, Mr John Fraser at Kiltarlity, *Ministers* ; Simon Fraser of Farahine, Esq; *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Chanonry*, Mr Alexander Wood at Rosemarkie, Mr Robert Arthur at Kirkmichael and Cullicudden, *Ministers* ; Convener John Lindsay, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Tain*, Mr John Urquhart at Fearn, Mr Thomas Urquhart at Rosekeen, *Ministers* ; Charles Ross, Esq; advocate *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh* of *Tain*, Robert Colt, Esq; of Auldham :—From the *Presbytery* of *Dingwall*, Mr Angus Bethune at Alness, Mr Charles Calder at Urquhart, *Ministers* ; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Abertarph*, Mr Thomas Ross at Kilmanivaig, Mr James Grant at Urquhart, *Ministers* ; William Tait, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Sky*, Mr Martin Macpherson at Slate, Mr William Bethune at Diurnish, *Ministers* ; The Right Honourable Alexander Lord Macdonald, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Uist*, Mr George Monro at South Uist, Mr John Macleod at Harris, *Ministers* ; William Macleod-Bannatyne, Esq; of Kaimes, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Lochcarron*, Mr John M'Queen at Applecross, Mr Alexander Downie at Lochalsh, *Ministers* ; Bailie Daniel Miller, merchant in Canongate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Dornoch*, Mr John Bethune at Dornoch, Mr Walter Ross at Clyne, *Ministers* ; Robert Bruce Æneas Macleod, Esq; of Cadboll, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Tongue*, Mr Alexander Falconer at Edrachillis, Mr John Thomson at Duirness, *Ministers* ; John Rose, Esq; Sheriff-substitute of Strathnaver, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Caitbness*, Mr William Sutherland at Wick, Mr George Mackenzie at Olrick, *Ministers* ; Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster, Baronet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh* of *Wick*, James Horne, Esq; writer to the Signet : From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkwall*,  
Mr

Mr William Anderfon at Evie and Rendall, Mr George Barry at Kirkwall and St Olay, *Minifters*; Mr Alexander Youngfon, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Kirkwall*, Malcolm Laing, Efq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *North Ifles*, Mr William Cloufton at Crofs and Burnefs, Mr James Izett at Weft-ray, *Minifters*; John Grieve, Efq; one of the Commiffioners of Excife, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Zetland*, Mr John Inches at Nefting, Mr Patrick Barclay at Sandfting, *Minifters*; Profeflor Dalzel, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Edinburgh*, Dr Henry Grieve, Dr Andrew Hunter, and Mr William Simpson of Edinburgh, Mr William Paul, St Cuthbert's, Mr Walter Buchanan, Canongate, Mr William Bennet at Duddington, *Minifters*; William Ramfay, Efq; of Barn-ton, John Gloag, Efq; eldeft bailie of the City of Edinburgh, Mr Orlando Hart, late Convener of the Trades, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City* of *Edinburgh*, The Right Honourable Thomas Elder, Lord Provoft of the City, Mr John Young, Convener of the Trades:—From the *Church* of *Campvere*, Mr James Likly at Campvere, Robert Allan, Efq; merchant in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Linlithgow*, Mr John Muir at Falkirk, Mr James Dobie at Linlithgow, Mr John Morton at Borrowftounnefs, Mr James Wilfon at Mid Calder, *Minifters*; Robert Blair, Efq; his Majesty's Solicitor-General, Mr James Taylor fhip-mafter at Queensferry, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Linlithgow*, Robert Blair, Efq; his Majesty's Solicitor-General for Scotland:—From the *Burgh* of *Queensferry*, Alexander M'Nabb, Efq; Chief Magiftrate of the Burgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Biggar*, Mr Thomas Gray at Broughton, Mr James Finlayfon at Symington, Mr William Watfon at Biggar, *Minifters*; John Dickfon, Efq; of Culter, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Peebles*, Dr William Dalgliefh at Peebles, Mr Robert Scott at Innerleithing, *Minifters*; James Montgomery, Efq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Peebles*, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Efq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dalkeith*, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr Thomas M'Courtly at Penny-cuick, Mr Archibald Syngers at Fala, *Minifters*; the Lord Advocate for Scotland, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Haddington*, Mr Patrick Carfrae at Morham, Mr Henry Sangfter at Humbie, Mr Henry David Hill at North Berwick, *Minifters*; John Hamilton, Efq; of Pen-caitland, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Haddington*,

Mr Thomas Pringle, one of the present bailies:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunbar*, Mr John Ewan at Whittingham, Mr John Harvie at Innerwick, *Minister*; John Anderson of Windygowl, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—And the General Assembly added thereto Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood, one of the Ministers of St Cuthbert's, in place of the Moderator:—and also added all those whose commissions had been rejected on account of informality, *viz.* from the *Burgh* of *Inveraray*, Humphrey Trawfurd Campbell, Esq; younger of Ashnith:—And from the *Burgh* of *North Berwick*, Sir Hew Hamilton Dalrymple, Bart. of North Berwick, TO BE COMMISSIONERS of this General Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully empowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints

appoints the same to stand in full force as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here inserted; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books and pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission, to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise, to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correspondence with the Committee for reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein; and, if, need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies one thousand seven hundred and twelve, and one thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Assembly one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure  
until

in some University or Universities, he hath gone through a full course of Philosophy, in some winter-sessions of College preceding that in which the certificates are produced.

II. The General Assembly do likewise hereby ordain, That all Students who have been inrolled by Professors of Divinity, in the manner prescribed by this act, shall continue to prosecute the study of Divinity, for the term of six Sessions: Provided always, That if any Student hath given regular attendance in the Divinity Hall, during three Sessions, his Course shall be considered as completed in four Sessions; and that if he hath given regular attendance in the Hall during two Sessions, his Course shall be considered as completed in five Sessions. And the Assembly do farther ordain, that in each of these cases, Students shall be inrolled by the Professors during the several Sessions of their respective Courses, and deliver in the Divinity Hall, in the manner herein afterwards provided, an Exegesis in Latin, on some controverted Head in Divinity, a Homily in English, an Exercise and Addition, a Lecture on some large portion of Scripture, and a popular Sermon, together with such other Exercises as the Professors shall think proper to prescribe. And the Assembly farther enact, and declare, That a Student is entitled to apply to the Professor for his certificates, that he may be proposed for trials, and that the preliminary steps may be taken by the Presbytery, during the currency of the last Session of his Course, as above described; with this limitation, that if the said last Session is to be claimed as a Session of regular attendance, he shall, toward the conclusion thereof, obtain a new certificate of his attendance during its currency, and produce the same to the Presbytery, or Synod.

III. Professors of Divinity are required to attend, as much as circumstances may permit, to the conduct of such Students as are under their care, and, as far as they find it practicable, to insist that every Student shall deliver his first discourse some time during his second Session, at the latest, and the remainder of his Discourses at such periods as may enable him to deliver the whole of them before the end of January, of the last Session of his Course.

IV.

IV. When a Student is proposed to any Presbytery, in order to be taken upon trials, the Presbytery shall be alone, and the motion for that purpose shall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting. In the mean time, the Presbytery shall appoint the Member by whom the Student has been proposed, to lay before the said meeting the certificate, or certificates in favour of the Student, that are specified in the third paragraph of the fifth section of this Act; to desire him to attend the same; and to inform him, that, previously to the meeting, he ought, as far as circumstances may permit, to wait on such Ministers of the Presbytery as have not formerly had an opportunity of conversing with him in private.

V. When the time appointed for considering the motion is arrived, the Presbytery shall strictly observe the following regulations.

1<sup>st</sup>, The Presbytery shall be alone, while they are employed in discussing the several preliminaries respecting Students who are proposed for trials.

2<sup>d</sup>, They shall require satisfying evidence, that every Student who is proposed for that purpose, has completed the twenty-first year of his age.

3<sup>d</sup>, No Student shall be admitted to trials, unless he produces to the Presbytery, a certificate or certificates from the Professor or Professors of Divinity, under whose tuition he hath studied, bearing; that he hath prosecuted his studies, and delivered his Discourses, in the manner prescribed by this act; and that his conduct, as far as consists with the knowledge of the said Professor, or Professors, has been in every respect suitable to his views in life. And the General Assembly do likewise hereby enact, That the Presbytery shall record at full length the said certificate, or certificates, in their minutes: And it is hereby enacted and declared, That the Student having lodged such certificate, or certificates, shall be entitled to obtain extracts of the same, if demanded.

4<sup>th</sup>, No Presbytery shall receive any Student upon trials, unless they are satisfied that he is of good report; sound in his principles; pious, sober, grave, and prudent, in his behaviour; of a peaceable disposition; and well affected to the happy establishment in this kingdom, both in Church and State. And, that the Presbytery may proceed with all due caution, in a matter of such peculiar importance, they shall not agree to the motion in behalf of the Student, unless his residence, during the

James Walker at Dunnottar, Mr James Hogg at Skene, Mr George Grant at Old Machar, Mr Alexander Henderson at Echt, Mr John Gordon at Strathdon, Mr Patrick Davidson at Rayne, Mr John Lundie at Lonmay, Mr Robert Ballingal at Forglan, Mr George Donaldson at Rathven, Mr John Cooper at Glas, Mr Francis Grant at Knockando, Mr Patrick Grant at Duthill, Mr John Reid at Duffus, Mr John Macdonnell at Forres, Mr John Morrison at Nairn, Mr John Fraser at Kiltarlity, Mr Alexander Wood at Rosemarkie, Mr John Urquhart at Fearn, Mr Angus Bethune at Alness, Mr James Grant at Urquhart, Mr John M'Leod at Harris, Mr John M'Queen at Applecrofs, Mr Walter Ross at Clyne, Mr John Thomson at Duirness, Mr William Shepherd at Wick, Mr George Barry at Kirkwall, Mr James Izett at Westray, Mr Patrick Barclay at Sandsting, Mr John Muir at Falkirk, Mr William Watson at Biggar, Mr Robert Scott at Innerleithen, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr Henry-David Hill at North Berwick, Mr John Harvie at Innerwick, *Ministers*; Matthew Sandilands, Esq; John Macfarlan, Esq; Advocate, The Earl of Lauderdale, Mr John Sked at Lasudden, Mr George Leslie, merchant, Edinburgh, Joseph Norris, Esq; of Newfield, Mr James Saunders, writer to the Signet, Mr William Johnston, writer, Edinburgh, Mr John Peat, writer, Edinburgh, Horatius Cannan, Esq; of Barley, John Gordon, Esq; of Carleton, John Bushby, Esq; Thomas Adair, Esq; of Genuch, Mr Thomas Smith writer, George Fergusson, Esq; Advocate, Robert Davidson, Esq; Advocate, Archibald Campbell, Esq; Advocate, The Lord President, Archibald Campbell, Esq; younger of Succoth, John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; Archibald Macdonald, Esq; of Sanda, David Campbell of Combie, Esq; Allan Macdougall, Esq; of Hayfield, John Hagart, Esq; Advocate, Mr James Dickson, bookseller, Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Beatson writer, the Dean of Faculty, Professor William Richardson, Glasgow, Alexander Park, Esq; of Lochore, Major John Melvil of Cairnie, William Dalgliesh, Esq; younger of Scotsraig, Dr Andrew Duncan, Mr Thomas Weir, writer, Sir William Ramsay of Banff, Baronet, Mr Alexander Pitcairn, merchant, Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Milne, merchant, Canongate, Mr Thomas Duncan, writer, Edinburgh, James Wachope, Esq; Advocate, Adam Gillies, Esq; Advocate, John Burnet, Esq; Advocate, the Procurator, John Gordon, Esq; of Craig, William Macdonald, Esq; of Reneaton, James Gordon,



Gordon, Esq; younger, of Craig, William Gordon, Esq; younger, of Rothney, Mr John Taylor, clerk to the Signet, Mr Coll Macdonald, clerk to the Signet, Mr George Andrew, writer, Edinburgh, Mr Baron Gordon, Isaac Grant, Esq; of Hilton, Dr Gregory Grant, Mr Thomas Gordon, writer to the Signet, William Scott, Esq; banker, Charles Hope, Esq; Advocate, Mr Alexander Grant, writer to the Signet, Convener John Lindsay, Edinburgh, Charles Ross, Esq; Advocate, Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, writer to the Signet, William Tait, Esq; Advocate, Lord Macdonald, William Macleod-Bannatyne, Esq; Bailie Daniel Miller, Sir John Sinclair, Baronet, Mr James Horne, writer to the Signet, Mr Alexander Youngson writer, Malcolm Laing, Esq; Advocate, Commissioner Grieve, Professor Dalzel, The Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Convener John Young, Mr Robert Allan merchant, The Solicitor General, John Dickson, Esq; Advocate, James Montgomery, Esq; Advocate, Andrew Hamilton, Esq; The Lord Advocate, *Ruling Elders*; TO BE A COMMITTEE of this Assembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty for these ends, according to, and in terms of His Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to His Majesty's design, expressed in His warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes, in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation; prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them.

them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick ; and, in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws : And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet ; which instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee, to have a particular regard in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Assemblies : And to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do : Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their registers, the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them ; and to direct all their letters, concerning missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee ; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof : And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, That they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts ; and that every Catechist who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners or gentlemen of the district shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to the Cashier, a declaration that he has received the particular sum specified ; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall in like manner bear, that the Catechist has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment ; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no such declaration of the Catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the Cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the Catechist shall, notwithstanding,

standing, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty. That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned, who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named, as members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers; and the said Committee are appointed to have their first general meeting at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of the first of the stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly; their second meeting (which is for fixing the annual scheme), upon the second Thursday of July, with power to those members who shall then be present, to adjourn; and their other two general meetings the first lawful days after the stated meetings of the Commission of the General Assembly, in November and March, within the Assembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the Commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foresaid Royal

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Bounty,

Bounty, to pay out the same, as he shall be directed and ordered by the foresaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lie on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time the person complained of, and the Presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just account of the matter, against the next meeting. And it is farther appointed, That after the yearly scheme of missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their answer to these letters, at farthest with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot complete it, they shall name a sub-committee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And empowered the Committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said Committee, in making up the scheme of missionaries, &c. do not exceed the sum in the grant.



## VII.

Edinburgh, May 27. 1793. *Sess. ult.*

*THE Report of the Committee appointed to class returns to Overtures was called for, given in, and read.—The Assembly delayed the consideration of the alterations proposed by some Presbyteries; and in the mean time agreed, to re-transmit the New Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers; and also the Overture respecting the annexation and suppression of parishes; with a renewal of the recommendation to such Presbyteries as have sent no returns to send them without further delay.*

### New Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers.

Edinburgh, May 25. 1792. *Sess. 8.*

**T**HE General Assembly having taken under their serious consideration, the great danger to which the interests of Religion and of this Church may be exposed, by licensing any to preach the Gospel, who are not duly qualified for that important trust, do hereby enact, and ordain, That, in all time coming, the following regulations shall be strictly observed :

I. It is hereby enacted, That no Student shall be entered upon the Roll of any Professor of Divinity, unless he shall produce to the said Professor a certificate from the Minister of the parish in which he has his usual residence; or in his absence, or during a vacancy in said parish, from some neighbouring Minister, bearing, that his character is suitable to his views; together with a diploma of Master of Arts, or certificates from the several Professors of Philosophy, under whom he hath studied, from which it may be clearly ascertained, that  
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in some University or Universities, he hath gone through a full course of Philosophy, in some winter-sessions of College preceding that in which the certificates are produced.

II. The General Assembly do likewise hereby ordain, That all Students who have been inrolled by Professors of Divinity, in the manner prescribed by this act, shall continue to prosecute the study of Divinity, for the term of six Sessions: Provided always, That if any Student hath given regular attendance in the Divinity Hall, during three Sessions, his Course shall be considered as completed in four Sessions; and that if he hath given regular attendance in the Hall during two Sessions, his Course shall be considered as completed in five Sessions. And the Assembly do farther ordain, that in each of these cases, Students shall be inrolled by the Professors during the several Sessions of their respective Courses, and deliver in the Divinity Hall, in the manner herein afterwards provided, an Exegesis in Latin, on some controverted Head in Divinity, a Homily in English, an Exercise and Addition, a Lecture on some large portion of Scripture, and a popular Sermon, together with such other Exercises as the Professors shall think proper to prescribe. And the Assembly farther enact, and declare, That a Student is entitled to apply to the Professor for his certificates, that he may be proposed for trials, and that the preliminary steps may be taken by the Presbytery, during the currency of the last Session of his Course, as above described; with this limitation, that if the said last Session is to be claimed as a Session of regular attendance, he shall, toward the conclusion thereof, obtain a new certificate of his attendance during its currency, and produce the same to the Presbytery, or Synod.

III. Professors of Divinity are required to attend, as much as circumstances may permit, to the conduct of such Students as are under their care, and, as far as they find it practicable, to insist that every Student shall deliver his first discourse some time during his second Session, at the latest, and the remainder of his Discourses at such periods as may enable him to deliver the whole of them before the end of January, of the last Session of his Course.

IV.

IV. When a Student is proposed to any Presbytery, in order to be taken upon trials, the Presbytery shall be alone, and the motion for that purpose shall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting. In the mean time, the Presbytery shall appoint the Member by whom the Student has been proposed, to lay before the said meeting the certificate, or certificates in favour of the Student, that are specified in the third paragraph of the fifth section of this Act; to desire him to attend the same; and to inform him, that, previously to the meeting, he ought, as far as circumstances may permit, to wait on such Ministers of the Presbytery as have not formerly had an opportunity of conversing with him in private.

V. When the time appointed for considering the motion is arrived, the Presbytery shall strictly observe the following regulations.

1<sup>st</sup>, The Presbytery shall be alone, while they are employed in discussing the several preliminaries respecting Students who are proposed for trials.

2<sup>d</sup>, They shall require satisfying evidence, that every Student who is proposed for that purpose, has completed the twenty-first year of his age.

3<sup>d</sup>, No Student shall be admitted to trials, unless he produces to the Presbytery, a certificate or certificates from the Professor or Professors of Divinity, under whose tuition he hath studied, bearing, that he hath prosecuted his studies, and delivered his Discourses, in the manner prescribed by this act; and that his conduct, as far as consists with the knowledge of the said Professor, or Professors, has been in every respect suitable to his views in life. And the General Assembly do likewise hereby enact, That the Presbytery shall record at full length the said certificate, or certificates, in their minutes: And it is hereby enacted and declared, That the Student having lodged such certificate, or certificates, shall be entitled to obtain extracts of the same, if demanded.

4<sup>th</sup>, No Presbytery shall receive any Student upon trials, unless they are satisfied that he is of good report; sound in his principles; pious, sober, grave, and prudent, in his behaviour; of a peaceable disposition; and well affected to the happy establishment in this kingdom, both in Church and State. And, that the Presbytery may proceed with all due caution, in a matter of such peculiar importance, they shall not agree to the motion in behalf of the Student, unless his residence, during the

year preceding, has been chiefly within their bounds; or he shall produce sufficient testimonials from the Presbytery, in whose bounds his residence has chiefly been, during that term, bearing, that his character is such as is described in the immediately preceding sentence of this paragraph, and recommending him, in these respects, to the Presbytery before whom the proposal is made, as a proper person to be entered upon trials.

5th, The Presbytery shall not agree to the motion in favour of the Student, unless they are satisfied, that he has made a competent degree of proficiency in those several branches of knowledge, which are necessary to enable him to be an useful Preacher of the Gospel. And the General Assembly ordain, that the Presbytery, in order to procure full information in this respect, shall examine the Student, strictly, and privately, on his knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, and of Philosophy and Theology.

6th, If after these preliminary steps have been taken, the Presbytery shall be of opinion, that the Student is duly qualified in these several particulars, they shall record this opinion in their minutes, and order their clerk to write letters to the several Presbyteries within the bounds of the Provincial Synod, two kalendar months at least before the meeting of the same, informing them of the Presbytery's intention to take the Student upon Public Trials, and bearing, that the certificate, or certificates in his favour, which are required by this act, have been regularly laid before them. But it is hereby provided, That within the bounds of such Synods as meet only once a-year, a Student may be entitled to have these circular letters written half a-year sooner than would be otherwise competent.

VI. The General Assembly do likewise hereby enact and declare, That, at the request of the Student, it shall be competent to any Presbytery to transfer the receiving of the Public trials, or any part thereof, certifying to the Presbytery to which the transference is to be made, that the various preliminary steps have been taken according to the directions of this act; and that such parts of the public and private trials as have been already gone through, have been received with approbation.

VII. If a Student hath studied, either in whole or in part, in Protestant Universities which are not within the bounds of this Church, he shall, when he is proposed to any Presbytery for trials, be required to produce satisfying



ing testimonials from the Professors of Divinity in said Universities; and the time which these Professors shall certify to have been employed by him in studying Divinity under their tuition, shall be computed in the same manner as if he had prosecuted his studies in any of the Universities within the bounds of this Church. But it is hereby provided, That no Student, in such circumstances, shall be admitted even to those private trials which are appointed to be taken before the writing of the circular letters, sooner than six kalendar months after his arrival in Scotland.

VIII. The General Assembly ordain, That if a Presbytery propose to take a Student upon public trials, and have, with that view, written the circular letters, as is herein required, public intimation thereof shall be made at some diet of the next meeting of the Provincial Synod, which shall not be the last diet thereof: And the Presbytery clerk is hereby required to transmit to the Synod clerk an extract of the certificate, or certificates, laid before the Presbytery, in favour of the Student, in order that the same may be produced at this diet of the Synod. And it is likewise hereby ordained, That at some subsequent diet of the Synod, particular enquiry shall be made, whether any of the Members of the Court has any objection to offer against the Student being entered upon public trials: And that the Synod then taking into consideration the extract produced, and the whole of the case, shall judge of the expediency of allowing the Presbytery to admit the student on trials: Or if in any case the Presbytery clerk shall fail to transmit the extracts of the certificates above mentioned, the Student may produce to the Synod, by himself or by any Member of the Court, the extract of the same, which by this act he is entitled to obtain.

IX. If the Synod shall allow the Student to be taken upon public trials, the Presbytery shall proceed therein with all convenient speed; and the Assembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the Student, and in the order herein mentioned: 1<sup>st</sup>, Catechetic trials on Divinity, Chronology, and Church History.; 2<sup>d</sup>, A trial on the Hebrew and Greek languages; 3<sup>d</sup>, An Exegesis in Latin on some controverted Head in Divinity; 4<sup>th</sup>, A Homily in English; 5<sup>th</sup>, An Exercise and Addition;  
6<sup>th</sup>,

6th, A Lecture on some large portion of Scripture ;  
 7th, A popular Sermon ; it being understood, that if the Presbytery see cause, they may examine the Student upon the subject of these several Discourses.

X. The Student having gone through the several trials, which are mentioned in the immediately preceding section of this act, the Presbytery are ordained to proceed in the following order :

1st, They shall, deliberately and seriously, take a conjunct view of the whole trials ; and if they shall be of opinion, that the Student is not properly qualified to perform the duties incumbent on a Preacher of the Gospel, they shall, by no means, grant him a Licence, in his present circumstances.

2d, If, upon this review of the trials, the Presbytery are fully satisfied therewith, they shall record this opinion in their minutes.

3d, The Presbytery shall then propose to the Student the questions that are appointed to be put to all who pass Trials by act 10th Assembly 1711, and require him to subscribe the *Formula* which is prescribed by the said act. And the General Assembly strictly prohibit all Presbyteries from licensing any Student to preach the Gospel, who shall not give explicit and satisfying answers to these questions, and subscribe the said *Formula*.

4th, The Presbytery shall order the act of Assembly 1759, against Simoniackal practices, to be read to the Student in their presence.

Lastly, The Presbytery shall appoint their Moderator to licence the Student to preach the Gospel, and order their clerk to furnish him with an extract of his licence.

XI. For the better observance of this act, the General Assembly ordain, 1st, That it shall be printed among their other printed acts ; 2d, That it shall be printed by itself, in some convenient form ; 3d, That a copy of this separate edition shall be transmitted to each Professor of Divinity in the Universities of Scotland ; and that the said Professors shall read the same in their respective Halls, once at least during every Session, and at such times as they have reason to expect the attendance of the greatest number of Students for that Session ; and, lastly, That a copy of the same edition

edition shall likewise be transmitted to the clerks of each Synod, and Presbytery, within the bounds of this Church, and that the said clerks shall keep the same along with their minutes, and bring it up to each meeting of their respective Courts, for the use of the Members.



### VIII.

Edinburgh, May 28. 1792. *Sess. ult.*

*THE ASSEMBLY recommends to Presbyteries to take the following Overture into consideration at an early diet, and send up their Opinions upon the same to next Assembly.*

### Overture respecting the annexation and suppression of Parishes.

**T**HAT the Assembly, in all proposed cases of annexation and suppression, do enjoin Presbyteries to communicate to the Synod of the bounds the proposal that is made; that although it does not appear to them proper for the Church to give any opposition, it shall not be competent for them to express their consent to the proposed annexation and suppression, either by a deliverance in their minutes, or at the bar of the Court of Teinds, until they have obtained the consent of the Synod of the bounds; and further, that when they resolve to give opposition to any proposed annexation or suppression, they shall communicate their resolution, together with the grounds of their opposition, and the directions which they have given thereanent to the Synod of the bounds.

## IX.

Act appointing the Diet of the next  
General Assembly.*Edinburgh, May 27. 1793. Sess. ult.*

**T**HE next GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 15th day of May, 1794.

*Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by***ANDREW DALZEL, Cl. Eccl. Scot.**

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# ABRIDGMENT

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, held at Edinburgh in the year 1793, which are not printed at full length.

*Thursday, May 16. 1793. Sess. 1.*

**A**FTER Sermon by the Reverend Dr ANDREW HUNTER, one of the Ministers of the City, and Professor of Divinity in the University of Edinburgh; Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders convened in the Assembly-house in the usual manner: And, after prayer by the said Dr Andrew Hunter, the Reverend Dr THOMAS HARDY, one of the Ministers of the City, and *Regius* Professor of Divinity and Church History in the University of Edinburgh, being unanimously chosen Moderator, he, at the Assembly's desire, took the Chair.

The KING's Commission to the Right Honourable DAVID Earl See Printed Acts, of LEVEN, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person, read, and No. I. ordered to be recorded.

The King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, read, and or- and No. II. dered to be recorded.

The Commissioner's speech at the opening of the Assembly, and the Moderator's speech in return thereto.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

A dutiful Address to his Majesty on the subject of the present war; agreed to, and a Committee appointed to prepare the same.

A Committee named for revising the Commissions to the Members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof, naming Ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, and receiving Lists of Probationers in the several Presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

A Committee for Overtures named.

A Committee for bills, references, and appeals, named.

Adjournment.

*Friday, May 17. 1793. Sess. 2.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

A diet spent in prayer.

Act VII. of the Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of the business of the Assembly, read, and the observation thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the Commissioner.

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## ABRIDGMENT. 1793.

The Committee for revising Commissions appointed to meet.  
The Committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet.  
Adjournment.

Saturday, May 18. 1793. *Sess.* 3.

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

See Printed Acts, No. III. The draught of the answer to the King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly being brought in and approved, his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertook to transmit the same to his Majesty.

and No. IV. The draught of a dutiful address to his Majesty, on the subject of the present war, being brought in and approved, his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, likewise undertook to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The report of the Committee for Overtures given in and read.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Dalkeith, "That the election, and resolution to elect, are both "on the same day, viz. the 2d of April 1793." A paper, purporting to be the Minutes of the Presbytery of Dalkeith, being produced and read; and it appearing to the House, that the resolution to elect was entered into the Minutes on the 5th of February 1793, and not on the 2d of April, as the Commission bore; the Assembly, after reasoning, agreed, without a vote, to sustain the said Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the Burgh of Inveraray, "That the attestation of the Kirk-session is signed "Paul "Frazer, Minister," instead of "Moderator." The Assembly sustained the objection, and rejected the Commission.

The roll of causes transmitted by the Committee for bills, called for, produced, and read.

Agreed to take up the cause of the Schoolmaster of Dornoch on Monday, the cause against Mr Shepherd at Daviot on Wednesday, and the cause against Mr Macnaught at Girthon on Thursday next.

A Committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the Commission of the last General Assembly.

A Committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the Committee appointed by last Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, for reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

The Committee for overtures appointed to meet this evening, and empowered to receive from the several Members, any instructions given to them by the respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereon to the Assembly, and to receive and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and superstition, and prepare overtures for preventing and suppressing thereof.

The Committee of bills appointed to meet on Monday next at eleven o'clock.

Adjournment.

Monday,



## ABRIDGMENT. 1793.

Monday, May 20. 1793. Sess. 4.

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

The Report of the Committee for overtures called for, given in, and read.

It was objected to the Commission from the Burgh of Elgin, "That there are wanting in the attestation of the Kirk-session the following words, *and that he has signed the formula prescribed by the 11th Act of Assembly 1694.*" The Assembly ordered this Commission to lie on the table, till the Member appear to claim his seat.

An overture from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, respecting the more accurate and better printing of the common editions of the Bible, was read, and ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow.

Report of the Committee for bills called for, produced, and read.

Synod-books called for.

Committees appointed to revise the Synod-books of Merse and Teviotdale :—Glasgow and Ayr :—Angus and Mearns :—and Lothian and Tweeddale.

A Committee named to audite and revise the accounts of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, and other public accounts, consider the state of the Church's public money, and prepare overtures about the same.

Causes fixed for hearing.

A complaint and appeal, at the instance of Mr William Hardy Moncrieff, Minister of Annan, against a sentence of the Synod of Dumfries, of date the 16th October last; in the cause respecting Mr James Halliday, Schoolmaster elect of the parish of Dornoch, heard: The Assembly, upon a motion made, unanimously affirmed the sentence of the Synod of Dumfries, reversing the sentence of the Presbytery of Annan, finding, that Mr Halliday is disqualified, by his contumacy for the office of Schoolmaster of the Parish of Dornoch: But, in respect, that he has not been legally examined by the Presbytery of Annan, the Assembly remitted to the said Presbytery to take trial of Mr Halliday's qualifications for the said office, ordaining him, when summoned, to appear before the Presbytery, and submit to an examination, according to law.

A complaint, at the instance of Mr George Skene Keith, against a sentence of the Synod of Aberdeen, in the cause anent supplying the vacancies of Aberdeen and Old Machar, heard: The Assembly, upon a motion, unanimously reversed the sentence of the Synod of Aberdeen, and both the judgments of the Presbytery of Aberdeen, and leave the Presbytery to grant supply of vacancies for the future, according to their own discretion.

The

## ABRIDGMENT. 1793.

The Committee for overtures and bills, appointed to meet this evening at seven o'clock.

Adjournment.

*Tuesday, May 21. 1793. Sess. 4.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

Report of the Committee for overtures called for, given in, and read.

It was objected to the Commission from the Burgh of North-Berwick, "That the date of the election is *the 4th of March*, which is two days too early." The General Assembly sustained the objection, and rejected the Commission.

Report of the Committee for bills called for, given in, and read.

Agreed to take up the cause of Mr James Dallas as the first private cause, after the cause of Girthon.

The Committees for revising the Commission, and Royal Bounty records, appointed to meet to-morrow.

The overture anent the more correct printing of the common editions of the Bible, ordered to lie on the table till Thursday.

A reference from the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, respecting the annexation of the Parishes of Broughton, Glenholm, Kilbucho, and Culter, partly heard. The Assembly agreed to adjourn this cause for a little, until a memorial, which was sent for, giving an account of the state of these Parishes, was produced.

In the mean time, the Assembly proceeded to consider a petition for the Reverend Dr Boyd, Minister of Penningham, and the Kirk-session of that Parish, respecting the driving of cattle on the Lord's day: And after reasoning: The Assembly, considering the great importance of the due observance of the Lord's day, recommend it to the Session of Penningham, to correspond with the Procurator upon the subject of their petition; and the Assembly instruct the Procurator to take this matter under his consideration, and report his opinion to next Assembly: And, in the mean time, the Assembly enjoin all the Ministers of this Church, to take every proper method in their power to prevent the profanation, and to promote the due observance, of the Lord's day.

The Assembly then resumed the consideration of the annexation of the Parishes of Broughton, &c. and having heard a memorial on the subject read; appointed a special Committee to enquire into the facts respecting these parishes, who are to report their opinion to the Assembly on Saturday.

Adjournment.

*Wednesday,*

**A B R I D G M E N T. 1793.**

*Wednesday, May 22. 1793. Sess. 6.*

*Sederunt.*

A new Commission produced.

A certificate was produced, from which it appeared, That William Scott, Esq; Banker in Edinburgh, has signed the *Formula*, enjoined by the 11th act of Assembly 1694: The Assembly therefore sustained the Commission from the Burgh of Elgin in his favour, and allowed him to take his seat in the Assembly.

A reference from the Presbytery of Garioch, respecting a libel against Mr Robert Shepherd, Minister of Daviot, heard: A motion was made and seconded, That the Assembly dismiss the reference, reserving to the parties every right that was competent to them before the libel was resolved upon, and served on the defender: To which motion, the Assembly agreed, without a vote.

Committees appointed to meet.

The Assembly agreed to resolve themselves into a Committee of the whole House, on the cause of Girthon, to meet tomorrow at eleven o'clock.

Adjournment.

*Thursday, May 23. 1793. Sess. 7.*

*Sederunt.*

The public accounts produced, and ordered to lie on the table.

Report of the Committee for bills called for, given in, and read.

The Assembly having called for the Report of the Committee of the whole House, appointed to hear and consider the appeal, at the instance of James Kirkpatrick, and others, Elders, and heads of families in the Parish of Girthon, against a sentence of the Presbytery of Kirkcudbright, of date the 1st day of May current, in the cause, at their instance, against Mr John Macnaught, minister of the Gospel in the Parish of Girthon, the same was given in and read, and which report, after parties being called, proceeds as follows: "It having  
" been objected, that the Committee could not proceed in  
" this cause, in the personal absence of Mr Macnaught, who  
" is at present incarcerated by the civil power in the Tol-  
" booth of Kirkcudbright. The Committee agreed to hear  
" the Council at the Bar on this preliminary point; and  
" they being accordingly heard, the Committee, without a  
" vote, repelled the said objection. Parties were then heard  
" on the merits of the cause. And upon a motion made,  
" the Committee unanimously agreed to report to the Assem-  
" bly, as their opinion, that the sentence of the Presbytery  
" should be reversed, and that Mr John Macnaught ought  
" to be deposed from the office of the Holy Ministry."

The General Assembly having considered the above report,  
L. unanimously.

## ABRIDGMENT. 1793.

unanimously approved thereof : And therefore, after prayer, the General Assembly, in the name of the LORD JESUS CHRIST, the sole King and Head of His Church, and by virtue of the power and authority committed by Him to them, did, and hereby do, depose Mr John Macnaught, Minister of the Gospel of the Parish of Girthon, in the Presbytery of Kirkcudbright, from the office of the Holy Ministry, prohibiting and discharging him to exerce the same, or any part thereof, in all time coming : And the General Assembly did, and hereby do, declare the Church and Parish of Girthon vacant, from and after the day and date of this sentence. The Moderator intimated this sentence from the Chair ; and the Assembly ordained the Presbytery of Kirkcudbright, to cause the same to be intimated from the Pulpit of the Parish of Girthon.

The Committee on new applications ; and the Committee for bills, appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

*Friday, May 24. 1793. Sess. 8.*

*Sederunt.*

Report of the Committee for bills called for, given in, and read.

Report of the Committee on new applications called for, given in, and read, and ordered to be taken up to-morrow.

The Committee for revising the Synod-books, ordered to report to-morrow.

The Report of the Committee appointed to elass returns to overtures, given in, and ordered to lie on the table.

The Report of the Trustees of the fund established by Act of Parliament, for a provision to Minister's widows, &c. containing an account of their proceedings since last General Assembly, and a state of the fund under their management, given in, and ordered to lie on the table till Monday : And, upon a motion, the thanks of the House were given from the Chair to Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood for his fidelity, attention, and prudence in the management of the fund.

Sir Henry Moncreiff gave in the report on the augmentation bill, which was read, and ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow.

The Report of the Committee on the embarrassed situation of the funds of the Church, given in, and read, and ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow.

The Assembly resumed consideration of the overture from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, respecting the more accurate printing of the common editions of the Bible. A Letter from the King's Printer to the Moderator was read ; and along with it, specimens of a new edition of the common Bible were produced. The Assembly felt it their bounded duty to pay every attention to the printing of the Bible ; but, upon considering the Letter from his Majesty's Printer, and having viewed the said specimens which were given in, they thought it

## A B R I D G M E N T. 1793.

it unnecessary to proceed any farther in this matter at present.

The Report of the Committee on the annexation of the parishes of Broughton, &c. was given in, and ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow.

An appeal, at the instance of Sir Alexander Mackenzie of Coul, Baronet, and others, heritors of the parish of Contin, from a sentence of the Synod of Ross, of date 23d April last, in a process of Simony, at their instance, against Mr James Dallas, Preacher of the Gospel, presentee to the parish of Contin, heard: The General Assembly found, that there is no foundation for the charge of Simony against Mr Dallas, and therefore affoizied him from the said charge; and found, 1<sup>st</sup>, That the Presbytery of Dingwall have acted irregularly and inconsistently, in receiving a libel against Mr Dallas, at a meeting of Presbytery, held for the sole purpose of moderating in a call to him: 2<sup>dly</sup>, In having taken the libel to probation, previous to the judging of the relevancy thereof: 3<sup>dly</sup>, In inflicting a censure upon Mr Dallas, for which the libel does not conclude, and after they had declared they had found the libel not proven. The Assembly therefore dismissed the whole process, and ordained the Presbytery of Dingwall to meet again, for the purpose of moderating in a call to the presentee, on or before the first Thursday of July next, and to proceed in the settlement of Mr Dallas, in the Church and Parish of Contin, according to the rules of the Church, so as to complete the same before the third Thursday of September next.

Adjournment.

*Saturday, May 25. 1793. Sess. 9.*

*Sederunt.*

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertson, advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him, and his cautioners, of the sum of L. 681 : 0 : 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Sterling, disbursed by him, and appointing, that he take credit in his next account, for the sum of L. 181 : 0 : 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the account of Mr George Cairncrofs, agent for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him of the sum of L. 220 : 0 : 3 Sterling, disbursed by him, and appointing, that he debit himself in his next account, with the sum of L. 10 : 18 : 8 Sterling, being the balance due by him.

Act approving of the account of Dr William Gloag, sub-clerk of Assembly, and exonerating and discharging him of the sum of L. 55 : 13 : 5 Sterling, disbursed by him, and appointing, that he take credit in his next account, for the sum of L. 18, 3 s. 5 d. Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the account of Mr James Dickson, printer for the Church, and ordering payment of the sum of L. 11, 4 s. Sterling, being the amount thereof.

Act.

A B R I D G M E N T. 1793.

Act approving of the account of Mr Elphinstone Balfour, stationer to the Church, and ordering payment of the sum of L. 14 : 14 : 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  Sterling, being the amount thereof.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Murray, Clerk to the Committees of last Assembly, and ordering payment of the sum of L. 6 : 19 : 3 Sterling, being the amount thereof.

The Report of the Committee on new applications delayed till Monday.

Upon a petition and abstract grievances from the Synod of Orkney, being read, it was moved, and unanimously agreed to, that the General Assembly having considered the petition, with the abstract of grievances, under which the Clergy, and the people within the Synod of Orkney, have for a long time laboured; and being desirous to give them the most effectual aid, appoint a special Committee, with instructions, to select out of that abstract of grievances from time to time, until the whole be in some way redressed; those cases, which it appears to them upon an enquiry into all circumstances, most expedient to prosecute before the Court of Session, in the name, and at the expence of the Church; and empower the Procurator and Agent to act in this matter, according to the directions of this Committee. The Committee to report to next Assembly.

The Report of the visitors of the Commission record, called for; the Commission's conduct approved of; thanks given to the Moderator of the Commission; and their book ordered to be attested.

See Printed Acts, No. V. The Report of the Committee for naming the members of the COMMISSION of this ASSEMBLY, and preparing instructions to them, given in, and approved of: The Assembly added thereto Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood, one of the Ministers of St. Cuthbert's, in place of the Moderator: And also added all those whose Commissions had been rejected, on account of informality, viz. From the Burgh of Inveraray, Humphry Trawfurd Campbell, Esq; younger of Ashnish; and from the Burgh of North Berwick, Sir Hew Hamilton Dalrymple of North-Berwick, Baronet.

See Printed Acts, No. VI. The Report of the visitors of the Royal Bounty record, given in, and read; the conduct of the managers approved of; and their book ordered to be attested.

A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a Commission and instructions to them.

The Synod-book of Merse and Teviotdale, ordered to be attested.

The Synod-book of Glasgow and Ayr ordered to be attested.

The Synod-book of Angus and Mearns ordered to be attested.

The Committee on the scheme for erecting new parishes, renewed with the former powers.

The Committee on the Enzie fund renewed with the former powers,—The names of which Committee are as follow, the Moderator, Dr Hunter, Mr William Simpson, Mr Greenfield, Dr John Kemp, Sir Henry Moncreiff, Mr Moodie, Ministers; the

the Procurator, Bailie Leslie, Mr Thomas Smith, writer, Mr James Saunders, writer, Mr George Andrew, writer, Mr Solicitor-General; and the Assembly added thereto James Gordon, younger of Craig, Esq; and William Gordon, younger of Rothny, Esq;

The Report of the Committee on the bill for defining and regulating the powers of the Commission of Teinds in the augmentation and modification of stipends, being called for, given in, and read: The Lord Advocate stated to the House, that the bill was not to be considered as lost, but was withdrawn by him, at the desire of a great body of the landholders of Scotland, who had represented to him that they had not considered the same with sufficient attention, and who requested a delay.

Upon a motion made, and unanimously agreed to, the Moderator from the Chair gave the thanks of the House to the Lord Advocate for his great and uniform attention to the interest of the Church, and his zealous exertions on this occasion.

The Assembly having further deliberated upon the state of the bill as represented by the Lord Advocate, a motion was made, and unanimously agreed to, That the General Assembly having considered the Report of the Committee, appointed by the Commission of last Assembly, together with the information given by the Lord Advocate in his place, renew the Committee of last Assembly, and add thereto several other members: And they appointed the Moderator Convener, and instruct the Committee to attend to the subject, and to take such steps as shall appear to them most conducive to the interest of the Church.

The Report of the Committee on the embarrassed state of the Church funds was called for, given in, and read.—A motion was made, and unanimously agreed to, that the General Assembly having considered this Report, are of opinion, that with the present scanty revenue of the Church, it is impossible to devise any method of extricating the funds from their embarrassed situation, and therefore unanimously agree to appoint the Moderator, Dr Hunter, Dr Hill, Dr Carlyle; the Lord President, the Lord Advocate, Mr Solicitor-General, the Procurator, and Mr Dalzel, as a Committee, to consider the most respectful method of applying to the Crown, for an augmentation of the funds of the Church, and to report to next Assembly; and they appointed the Procurator Convener.

The Report of the Committee appointed to consider the reference respecting the annexation of the parishes of Broughton, &c. called for, given in, and read, and unanimously approved of.

Adjournment.

Monday, May 27. 1793. *Seff Ult.*

*Sederunt.*

The Report of the Trustees of the fund established by Act of Parliament, for a provision to Minister's widows, &c. again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate Register kept for that purpose.

List of Probationers produced; their names read out, and ordered to be recorded.

The Report of the Committee on new applications for shares of the Public money, again called for, given in, and read.

The Petition for the Ministers of Tongue, Duirness, and Edrachilles, in Sutherland, respecting the stipends of those parishes; and the Petition from the Presbytery of Kirkaldy, respecting the glebe of the Parish of Kirkaldy, being both read, they were ordered to lie on the table till next Assembly.

The Petition for Mr Patrick Macdonald, minister of Kelmore and Kilbride, craving aid, was read, and the prayer thereof refused.

A. Petition for Mr George Campbell, one of the Ministers of Cupar in Fife, being read; the Assembly remit this Petition to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, with instructions to defend what is stated therein, at the public expence, if the Procurator shall be satisfied that the claim is good.

The Report of the Committee appointed to class the returns to overtures, was called for, given in, and read. The Assembly delayed the consideration of the alterations proposed by some Presbyteries; and, in the mean time, agreed to transmit the overture respecting the licensing of probationers, and also the overture respecting the annexation and suppression of Parishes, with a renewal of the recommendation to such Presbyteries as have sent no returns, to send them without further delay:—And that the Clerks of Assembly shall send, in a separate edition, copies of these overtures to the different Presbyteries by post.

The Report of the Committee appointed by last Assembly on the Horse Tax, was called for,—When the Procurator stated, that the case of Mr Macmorine, Minister of Carlaverock, had been tried by the Commissioners of Supply of the County of Dumfries, who decided the matter unanimously in Mr Macmorine's favour: But that the cause being brought by appeal before the Barons of Exchequer, they unanimously reversed the sentence of the said Commissioners, by which decision, the Ministers of the Church of Scotland have been found liable to pay the Horse Tax. The Assembly, after reasoning, agreed to proceed no farther in this matter at present.

Upon

See Printed Acts,  
No. VII. and  
VIII.



**A B R I D G M E N T. 1793.**

Upon a motion made, and unanimously agreed to, the Moderator from the Chair, recommended to such Ministers as have not yet furnished Sir John Sinclair with Statistical Accounts of their respective Parishes, to contribute, with all the expedition in their power, to complete a work of such apparent utility.

Protestations admitted.

A Committee named to revise the Minutes of the Assembly's proceedings at this, and all other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of the Assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.

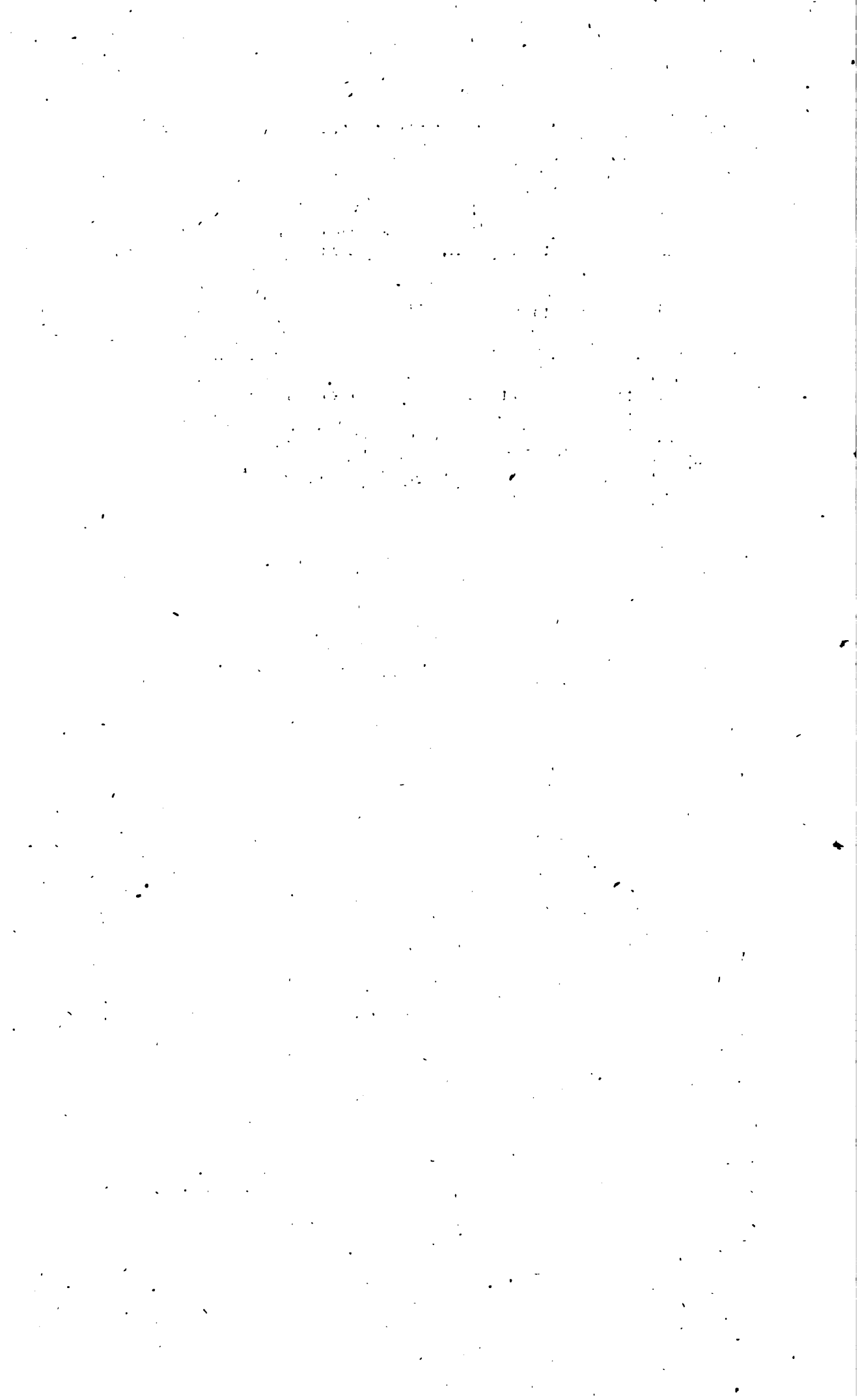
The Moderator's speech to the Assembly, and to his Grace the Commissioner.

The Lord High Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

Act appointing next meeting of the Assembly.

The Assembly concluded with prayer, singing of psalms, and No. IX. pronouncing the blessing.

See Printed Acts.



THE PRINCIPAL  
A C T S  
OF THE  
General Assembly  
OF THE  
C H U R C H  
O F  
S C O T L A N D,

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, THE 15th DAY OF MAY 1794-

COLLECTED AND EXTRACTED FROM THE RECORDS BY THE CLERK THEREOF.



EDINBURGH:  
PRINTED BY JAMES DICKSON, PRINTER TO THE CHURCH OF  
SCOTLAND.

M.DCC.XCIV.

and Representative in this Assembly; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Assembly; —the tenor whereof follows:

**G**EORGIUS, Dei gratia, Magnæ Britannia, Francia, et Hibernia Rex, Fidei Defensor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentis literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem Nos considerantes, quod Generalis Ecclesiæ Scotiæ Conventus in decimum quintum diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; Nosque abundè cupidi, et necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem ecclesiæ generalis conventus die statuto debitè observetur, atque rebus magni momenti Nos aliò vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; Nosque abundè satisfacti de sufficientiâ et fidelitate fidelissimi et prædilectissimi Nostri consanguinei Davidis Comitis de Leven, quod ad summum munus Nostri supremi Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum ritè exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus: Noveritis igitur, Nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, tenoreque præsentium, nominare, constituere, et ordinare, memoratum fidelissimum et prædilectissimum Nostrum consanguineum Davidem Comitem de Leven, supremum Nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam potestatem, Commissionem, et warrantum sacram Nostram Personam et auctoritatem regalem repræsentandi, nec non præsentiam Nostram supplendi, et locum Nostrum in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario Nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plene adeoque liberè in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius in eodem summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si Nos ipsi personaliter præsentis facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula quæ dictus David Comes de Leven, in hac Nostra Commissionem prosequenda legitimè fecerit, seu fieri ordina-verit, Nos firmiter approbamus, et ratificamus. Insuper omnibus et singulis dicti conventus et ecclesiæ pastoribus et presbyteris cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britannia Scotiam vocatam, subditis Nostri, cujuscunque gradûs seu qualitatis, ut dictum Davidem Comitem de Leven, tanquam supremum Nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoscant et audiant, strictè mandamus et præcipimus: Atque hanc Nostram Commissionem à dicto decimo quinto die Maii, proximi incipere, et deinceps durante subsequente sessione dicti generalis conventûs

*conventus in vigore continuare, declaramus, vel usque dum a Nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, presentibus sigillum Nostrum per Unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotiâ vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus. Apud aulam Nostram apud St James's, septimo die mensis Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo et nonagesimo quarto, Regniq. Nostrî anno trigesimo quarto.*

*Per signaturam manu S. D. N. Regis superscriptam.*



## II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

**R**IGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well.—The uniform experience which We have had during so long a course of years, of your unalterable attachment to Our Person and Government, and of your zealous and prudent attention to the important objects of your meeting, has not failed to make the deepest impression upon Our mind, and justly calls for Our highest commendation of your conduct. At the same time, you may be assured, that this so faithful discharge of your duty will insure to you the continuance of Our undiminished confidence and affection. In declaring Our firm reliance upon that wisdom and discretion which have at all times so eminently marked your proceedings, We cannot press too earnestly upon your minds the necessity of redoubling your common efforts, to check that prevalent spirit of licentious innovation, by which the present times are so unhappily distinguished, and which threaten to fill the whole Christian world with violence and confusion. By so doing, you will contribute the most effectually to promote the great and important ends for which

B

you

you are assembled, the maintenance of true Religion and Virtue, the Prosperity of your Established Church, and the security of those invaluable blessings which you have derived from Our happy Constitution. We have again appointed Our Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousin, DAVID Earl of LEVEN, to represent Our Royal Person in this Assembly, being well satisfied with his upright and faithful Conduct in the Execution of that important Trust, and not doubting but he must continue to be acceptable to you, from the affection to the Church of Scotland, and the zeal for the interests of Religion, which he has manifested on so many former occasions. We take this opportunity of repeating to you Our earnest exhortations, that you will proceed in the business before you with that Unanimity, Charity, and Brotherly Love, which truly become such an Assembly, and without which no real dignity or utility can attend your deliberations. Firmly trusting, that the Divine Providence will bless your endeavours, in bringing this meeting to a happy conclusion, We feel the highest satisfaction in continuing to countenance your meetings with Our Royal Authority, and to assure you of Our fixed determination to maintain the Church of Scotland in the perfect enjoyment of all its just Rights and Privileges. And so We bid you heartily farewell.—Given at Our Court at St James's, the 7th day of May 1794, in the 34th year of Our Reign.

By his Majesty's Command,

HENRY DUNDAS.

*Addressed thus:—To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved the Moderator, Ministers and Elders of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*



### III.

## The General Assembly's Answer to the KING's most gracious Letter.

*May it please your Majesty,*

**W**E received with the utmost respect and gratitude the gracious letter with which Your Majesty hath been pleased to honour this General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. It affords us the highest satisfaction to be assured, that our unalterable attachment to Your Person and Government, and our attention to the important Objects of our Meeting have on former occasions made so favourable an impression on Your Royal Mind. We regard Your Majesty's commendation as a most pleasing recompence for our past services, and a most animating inducement to persevere in that faithful discharge of our duty, which Your Majesty has graciously declared will insure to us the continuance of Your undiminished confidence and affection.

Anxious to justify that firm reliance on our wisdom and discretion which Your Majesty hath been pleased to express, we feel ourselves powerfully called upon to obey Your Majesty's Paternal Admonition, by redoubling our common efforts to check that prevalent spirit of licentious innovation, by which the present times are so unhappily distinguished, and which threaten to fill the whole Christian world with violence and confusion. By so doing, we are sensible that we shall most effectually contribute to promote the important ends for which we are assembled, the maintenance of true Religion and Virtue, the Prosperity of our Established Church, and the security of those invaluable blessings which we have derived from our happy Constitution.

The choice which Your Majesty has been pleased to make of the Earl of LEVEN to represent Your Royal Person in this Assembly, we consider as an additional instance of Your Majesty's favour. The approved fidelity and loyalty of this Noble LORD, that sincere

attachment to the Church of Scotland, by which he and his ancestors have so long been distinguished, his amiable character in private life, and the happy experience of former Assemblies, render Your Majesty's nomination of him most acceptable to us.

We beg leave to offer our humble and grateful acknowledgments to Your Majesty for Your attention to the Propagation of the Protestant Religion in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland; and it shall be our care, by a proper application of the sum with which Your Majesty hath entrusted us for that purpose, to promote the pious design for which it is bestowed.

Permit us to assure Your Majesty, that we shall endeavour to proceed in the business before us with that unanimity, charity, and brotherly-love, which become us as the servants of the Prince of Peace, and without which we are convinced, that no real dignity or utility can attend our deliberations. Such conduct we hope will induce Your Majesty to continue to us that countenance with which You have hitherto been pleased to honour our Meetings, and we rely with entire confidence on Your gracious determination to maintain the Church of Scotland in the perfect enjoyment of all its just Rights and Privileges.

That Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, may direct Your MAJESTY's Councils, and prosper the Administration of Your Government; that He may bless our gracious QUEEN, His Royal Highness GEORGE PRINCE OF WALES, and all Your Royal Family; that He may preserve You long to reign in wisdom and felicity over a free, a loyal, and a virtuous people, and bestow on you hereafter that crown of righteousness which fadeth not away,—are the Prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient, and most loyal Subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, }  
May 17. 1794. }

ROBERT ARNOT, *Moderator.*

IV.



XX

#### IV.

### The General Assembly's dutiful Address to His Majesty, on the subject of the present War.

*Most Gracious Sovereign,*

**W**E Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in the General Assembly, beg leave to approach Your Majesty with sincere sentiments of attachment to Your Person and Government.

In the interesting situation of the affairs of Europe at the present juncture, we are thankful to Divine Providence for those pledges of security to the British Nation, which we enjoy in Your Majesty's Paternal Care, and in the wisdom and vigour of your Councils.

When the rulers of the people of France, avowed their hostility to all existing governments, and by an unprovoked declaration of war against this country, obliged Your Majesty to draw the sword in defence of the Constitution, we Your faithful subjects, with full approbation of this necessary exertion of the public force, offered up our prayers to Heaven for the protection of our Country, and have since, without ceasing, continued to implore success to Your Majesty's Arms.

Fully convinced that our Religion, our Liberty, our Laws, and all that is dear to us, as Men and as Christians, are now at stake, we consider the war with France as the most important contest in which this Nation has ever been engaged. Happy in the experience of those high blessings we have long enjoyed, we look up with gratitude to our Sovereign, when he adopts the most effective measures to repel any force which threatens to endanger or overthrow our unequalled Constitution.

Under these impressions, we beg leave to congratulate Your Majesty on the success which has attended Your Arms, and those of Your Allies in Europe, and on the conquests which have been achieved by Your Majesty's

mery, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh* of *Peebles*, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq;—From the *Presbytery* of *Dalkeith*, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr Ebenezer Marshall at Cockpen, Mr John Paton at Laswade, *Ministers* ; the Lord Advocate *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Haddington*, Mr Alexander Glen at Dirleton, Mr John Trotter at Prestonpans, Mr David Pyper at Pencaitland, *Ministers* ; John Hamilton of Pencaitland, Esq; *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh* of *Haddington*, Richard Somner, Esq; present Provost of Haddington :—From the *Burgh* of *North Berwick*, Sir Hugh Hamilton Dalrymple of North Berwick, Baronet :—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunbar*, Mr Daniel Macqueen at Prestonkirk, Mr Andrew Spence at Cockburnspath, *Ministers* ; John Anderson of Windygowll, Esq; *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunfermline*, Mr John Todd at Fogo, Mr Alexander Johnston at Cranthaws, *Ministers* ; Matthew Sandilands, Esq; of Couston, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Cburnside*, Mr David Young at Foulden, Mr James Landells at Coldingham, *Ministers* ; George Buchan of Kello, Esq; *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Kilsyth*, Mr James Richardson at Mackenston, Mr Andrew Ogilvie at Linton, *Ministers* ; Sir James Pringle of Stitches, Baronet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Jedburgh*, Dr Thomas Somerville at Jedburgh, Dr Samuel Charters at Wilton, Mr Robert Gillan at Hawick, *Ministers* ; Mr James Dickson, merchant in Hawick, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Lauder*, Mr Robert Dawson at Stow, Mr William Shiells at Westruther, *Ministers* ; Bailie James Edmonstone in Lauder, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh* of *Lauder*, the Earl of Lauderdale :—From the *Presbytery* of *Selkirk*, Mr Robert Douglas at Galashiells, Mr Robert Russell at Yarrow, *Ministers* ; William Elliot, Esq; of Borthwick-brae, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Annan*, Mr Thomas Smith at Cumbertrees, Mr Abraham Nevelson at Middlebie, *Ministers* ; Joseph Norris of Newfield, Esq; *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Langholm*, Mr John Lawrie at Ewes, Mr James Arkle at Castletown, *Ministers* ; Mr James Saunders, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Lochmaben*, Mr Thomas Henderson at Drysdale, Mr David Dickson at St Mungo, Mr Richard Paxton at Tundergarth, *Ministers* ; Archibald Gordon of Halleaths, Esq; *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh* of *Lochmaben*, Mr William Johnston, writer in Edinburgh :—From the *Presbytery* of *Penpont*, Mr John

Robertson at Kirkconnell, Mr James Wilson at Tynron, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Harkness in Mitchellflaks, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Sanquhar*, Mr John Peat, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dumfries*, Mr James Macmillan at Torthorwall, Dr David Lamont at Kirkpatrick-Durham, Mr William Macmorine at Carlawerock, *Ministers*; Mr Robert Jackson, one of the present Bailies of Dumfries, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Dumfries*, Alexander Fergusson, Esq; of Craigharroch:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkcudbright*, Dr Robert Mutter at Kirkcudbright, Mr John Johnston at Crossmichael, Mr Robert Gordon at Carsfairn, *Ministers*; James Gordon, Esq; younger of Greenlaw, advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Kirkcudbright*, Horatius Cannan, Esq; of Barley:—From the *Burgh* of *New Galloway*, Mr Robert Heron, Preacher of the Gospel:—From the *Presbytery* of *Wigton*, Mr John Graham at Kirkinner, Mr Elliot William Davidson at Sorbie, *Ministers*; Robert Hathorn Stewart, Esq; of Phisgill, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Wigton*, Mr John Jaffrey, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Burgh* of *Whitburn*, John Bushby, Esq; Sheriff-Clerk of Dumfries:—From the *Presbytery* of *Stranraer*, Mr Peter Fergusson at Inch, Dr Anthony Stewart at Newluce, *Ministers*; Thomas Adair, Esq; of Genoch, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Stranraer*, Mr Thomas Smith, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Ayr*, Mr Alexander Moodie at Riccarton, Mr John Shepherd at Muirkirk, Mr George Smith at Galston, Mr Stephen Young at Barr, Mr William Ritchie at Tarbolton, *Ministers*; John Hamilton, Esq; of Bargeny, Thomas Kennedy, Esq; of Dunure, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Ayr*, George Fergusson, Esq; advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Irvine*, Mr James Mackindlay at Kilmarnock, Mr James Douglas at Stewarton, Mr Archibald Laurie at London, *Ministers*; the Honourable Mr Patrick Boyle of Shewalton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Irvine*, David Boyle, Esq; advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Paisley*, Mr John Findlay at Paisley, Mr Thomas Brown at Innerkip, Mr William Richardson at Inchinnan, Mr John Scott at Greenock, *Ministers*; Mr William Carlyle, eldest Magistrate of Paisley, Mr Robert Davidson, advocate, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Hamilton*, Mr Michael Maculloch at Bothwell, Mr Henry Stevenson at Blantyre, Mr Alexander Fleming at Hamilton, *Ministers*; Professor George Jardine, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of

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Lanark,

*Lanark*, Mr William Maccubbin at Douglas, Mr William Menzies at Lanark, *Ministers*; Bailie William Telfar, merchant in Lanark, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Lanark*, John Bannatyne, Esq; of Castlebank:—From the *Presbytery of Glasgow*, Mr John Burns at the Barony of Glasgow, Mr Alexander Rankin at Glasgow, Mr James Maclean at Gorbals, Mr Archibald Provan at Cadder, *Ministers*; Sir John Stirling of Glorat, Baronet, William Auchincloss, Esq; Convener of the Trades of Glasgow:—From the *University of Glasgow*, Dr Robert Finlay, Professor of Divinity:—From the *Presbytery of Dumbarton*, Mr David Macgibbon at Buchanan, Mr Duncan Macfarlan at Drumen, Mr John Mitchell at Fintray, *Ministers*; the Lord President, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Dumbarton*, Archibald Campbell younger of Succoth, Esq;—From the *Presbytery of Dunoon*, Mr Charles Stewart at Strachur, Mr Hugh MacTavish at Inverchaolan, *Ministers*; John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Kintyre*, Mr John Macleish at Kilchoman in Islay, Dr John Smith at Campbelton, Mr Alexander Steuart at Killean, *Ministers*; Archibald Macdonald, Esq; of Sanda, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Campbelton*, William Campbell of Fairfield, Esq;—From the *Burgh of Inveraray*, Humphry Crawford Campbell, Esq; younger, of Ashnish:—From the *Presbytery of Lorn*, Mr Donald Macnicol at Lismore, Dr Joseph Macintyre at Glenorchie, *Ministers*; John Campbell, Esq; of Lochend, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Mull*, Mr Norman Macleod at Morvern, Mr Dugal Campbell at Kilfinichan, *Ministers*; Allan Macdonald, Esq; of Hayfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Dunkeld*, Mr James Patrick Bannerman at Cargill, Mr Laurence Butter at Lethindy, Mr Alexander Niven at Dunkeld, Mr Colin Macvin at Kenmuir, *Ministers*; David Stewart, Esq; merchant Edinburgh, Niell Fergusson, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery of Perth*, Mr George Chapman at Kinfauns, Mr William Garvie at Aberdalgie, Mr David Black at St Madoes, Mr John Inglis at Tibbermuir, *Ministers*; Mr James Dickson, bookseller, Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Beatson, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery of Stirling*, Mr James Robertson at Gargunnock, Mr William Sheriff at St Ninian's, *Ministers*; William Murray, Esq; of Touchadam, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Auchterarder*, Mr William Graham at Fossaway, Mr James Burgh at Trinitygask, Mr Andrew

Gibson at Muckart, *Ministers*; Patrick Murray younger of Auchtertyre, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunblane*, Mr Christopher Tait at Kincardine, Mr John Campbell at Kippen, *Ministers*; Professor William Richardson, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*;—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunfermline*, Mr John Fairnie at Dunfermline, Mr Alexander Thomson at Carnock, Mr Patrick Spence at Orwell, *Ministers*; Sir Charles Preston of Valleyfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Inverkeithing*, Mr Thomas Fulton, wright in Inverkeithing:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkcaldy*, Mr George Shaw at Abbotshall, Mr James Wemyss at Burntisland, Mr George Muirhead at Dysart, *Ministers*; Alexander Park, Esq; of Lochore, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Burntisland*, Mr George Ledinghame, one of the Magistrates of Burntisland:—From the *Presbytery* of *Cupar*, Mr Samuel Martin at Monymenal, Mr Joseph Crichton at Ceres, Mr John Cook at Kilmenie, Mr William Aitken at Abdie, *Ministers*; David Johnston, Esq; of Lathrisk, Mr Henry Hardy at Newburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of *St Andrew's*, Dr Charles Wilson, Professor of Church History in St Mary's College, Mr Spence Oliphant at Largo, Mr James Beatson at Kingsbarns, Mr Thomas Laurie at Newburn, *Ministers*; Col. Monypenny of Pitmillie, Dr James Flint, Professor of Medicine in the United College, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *St Andrew's*, the Honourable Henry Erskine, Dean of the Faculty of Advocates:—From the *Burgh* of *Crail*, Mr Thomas Weir, writer in, Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Meigle*, Mr James Playfair at Bendochy, Mr Thomas Barty at Newtyle, Mr James Johnston at Blairgowrie, *Ministers*; Sir William Ramsay of Banff, Baronet, *Ruling Elder*: From the *Presbytery* of *Forfar*, Mr John Bruce at Forfar, Mr James Ogilvie at Kirrymuir, *Ministers*; Mr John Moncreiff, apothecary, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*: From the *Burgh* of *Forfar*, Robert Graham of Fintry, Esq;—From the *Presbytery* of *Dundee*, Mr William Johnston at Monieseth, Mr Adam Cairns at Longforgan, Mr James Scott at Auchterhouse, *Ministers*; Bailie John Guild merchant, Dundee, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Aberbrothock*, Mr John Aitken at St Vigean's, Mr William Milligan at Kirkden, *Ministers*; the Right Honourable William Earl of Northesk, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Aberbrothock*, Mr Thomas Duncan, writer, Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Brechin*, Mr Andrew Bruce at Brechin, Mr Andrew Gray at Caral-  
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stane, Mr Robert Hannah at Strickathrow, *Ministers*; James Wauchope, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Brechin*, Adam Gillies, Esq; advocate:—From the *Presbytery of Fordoun*, Mr James Walker at Dunnottar, Mr William Walker at Ecclesgreig, Mr James Leslie at Fordoun, *Ministers*; John Burnet, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Aberdeen*, Dr John Brown at Newhills, Mr Gavin Mitchell at Kinneller, Mr Skene Ogilvie at Old Machar, Mr George Gordon at Aberdeen, *Ministers*; the Procurator, John Gordon Esq; of Craig, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery of Kincardine* O'Neil, Mr Francis Downie at Banchory Ternan, Dr John Ogilvie at Midmar, Mr Robert Farquharson at Logiecoldstone, *Ministers*; William Macdonald of Reneaton, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Alford*, Mr George Forbes at Lochel, Mr Robert Lumsden at Kildrummy, Mr Alexander Smith at Keig, *Ministers*; James Gordon, Esq; younger of Craig, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Garioch*, Mr Patrick Davidson at Rayne, Mr George Skene Keith at Keithhall, Mr Thomas Tait at Old Meldrum, *Ministers*; William Gordon, Esq; younger of Rothny, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Deer*, Mr William Anderson at Strichen, Mr James Greig at Pitfligo, Mr William Greig at Longside, *Ministers*; Mr John Taylor, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Turriff*, Mr Alexander Rose at Auchterless, Mr John Miln at Inverkeithny, *Ministers*; Mr Archibald Miln, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Fordyce*, Mr Robert Grant at Cullen, Mr Abercromby Gordon at Banff, *Ministers*; Mr George Andrew, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Banff*, George Cranston, Esq; of Dewar:—From the *Presbytery of Stratbbogie*, Mr Alexander Angus at Botriphnie, Mr Francis Forbes at Grange, *Ministers*; Mr Baron Gordon, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Aberlour*, Mr James Grant at Inveravan, Mr George Cruickshank at Rothes, *Ministers*; Isaac Grant, Esq; of Hilton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Abernethy*, Mr John Grant at Abernethy, Mr John Anderson at Kinguilie, *Ministers*; Mr James Robertson, writer, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Elgin*, Mr John Reid at Duffus, Mr William Macbain at Alves, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Gordon, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Elgin*, William Scott, Esq; Banker in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery of Forres*, Mr William Stephen at Rafford, Mr John Hoyes

Hoyes at Kinlofs, *Ministers*; Dr Gregory Grant, physician in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Forres*, James Grant, Esq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery* of *Nairn*, Mr John Morrison at Nairn, Mr Prife Campbell at Arderfier, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Grant, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Inverness*, Mr Alexander Frazer at Kirkhill, Mr Hugh Mackay at Moy, *Ministers*; Simon Frazer of Faraline, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Inverness*, Bailie John Mackintosh, merchant in Inverness:—From the *Presbytery* of *Cbanonry*, Mr Alexander Wood at Rosemarkie, Mr Robert Smith at Cromarty, *Ministers*; Convener John Lindsay, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Tain*, Mr George Douglas at Tain, Mr Alexander Munro at Edderton, *Ministers*; Charles Ross, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Tain*, Robert Colt of Auldham, Esq;—From the *Presbytery* of *Dingwall*, Mr Harry Robertson at Kiltarn, Mr James Dallas at Contin, *Ministers*; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Abertarph*, Mr Patrick Grant at Boleiskine, Mr James Grant at Urquhart, *Ministers*; William Tait, Esq; advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lochcarron*, Mr Alexander Downie at Lochalsh, Mr John Macqueen at Applecrofs, *Ministers*; Bailie Daniel Miller, Canongate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dornock*, Mr George Macculloch at Loth, Mr William Keith at Golfpie, *Ministers*; Captain Robert Bruce Æneas Macleod, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Tongue*, Mr William Mackenzie at Tongue, Mr James Dingwall at Far, *Ministers*; Mr William Maclean, merchant, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Gairthness*, Mr William Sutherland at Wick, Mr Joseph Taylor at Wattin, *Ministers*; Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster, Baronet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Wick*, James Horne, Esq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkwall*, Mr William Anderson at Evie and Rendall, Mr James Watson at Southronaldsay, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Youngson, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Kirkwall*, Malcolm Laing, Esq; advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Cairstone*, Mr James Bremner at Walls and Flotay, Mr John Malcolm at Forth and Stenness, *Ministers*; Mr Richard Richardson, merchant, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *North Isles*, Mr John Anderson at Stronsay and Eday, Mr James Izett at Westray, *Ministers*; Commissioner Grieve, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Zetland*, Mr John Inches

at Nesting, Mr John Menzies at Bressay, *Ministers*; Professor Andrew Dalzel, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—And the General Assembly added thereto Dr George Hill, Principal of St Mary's College St Andrew's, in place of the Moderator; and also added those whose commissions had been rejected on account of informality, *viz.* From the *City of Glasgow*, Archibald Campbell, Esq; advocate:—And from the *Burgh of Perth*, John Caw, Esq; present Provost of Perth, to BE COMMISSIONERS of this General Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully empowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them



them in all points, as if the same were specially here inserted; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books and pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission, to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise, to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correspondence with the Committee for reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies one thousand seven hundred and twelve, and one thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Assembly one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission;  
and

and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Assembly held in the year one thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission; and such of the members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same: And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlement of vacant churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been some time the practice, but shall allow the same to lie over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th act of the Assembly one thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.—And in the event of any appeal or complaint taken against the judgment of the Presbytery of Stirling on the call of Mr Robert Knox, Preacher of the Gospel, presentee to the united parishes of Larbert and Dunipace, or in any other step of the proceedings in this cause, the Assembly empower their Commission to judge of such appeals and complaints, and to give such orders as they shall see necessary for carrying on the settlement of the presentee, according to the rules of the Church.—And the General Assembly refer to their Commission to follow out what is contained in the report of the Committee on the due observation of the Lord's day, granting to them full power to that effect.

See Abridg-  
ment, Seff. 5.

and, Seff. ult.

## VI.

**COMMISSION** to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that end.

*Edinburgh, May 25. 1793. Sess. 9.*

**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY** did, and hereby do nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr ROBERT ARNOT, Professor of Divinity in St Mary's College, St Andrew's, their Moderator, all the ministers who are members of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, Dr Thomas Robertson at Dalmeny, Mr John Fraser at Libberton, Mr Patrick Robertson at Eddleston, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr David Pypet at Pencaitland, Mr Alexander Johnston at Cranhaws, Dr David Young at Foulden, Mr Andrew Ogilvie at Linton, Dr Thomas Somerville at Jedburgh, Mr Robert Dawson at Stow, Mr Robert Douglas at Galashiels, Mr John Laurie at Ewes, Mr Thomas Henderson at Drysdale, Mr James Wilson at Tynron, Mr John Johnston at Croismichael, Dr Anthony Stewart at Newlace, Mr Alexander Moodie at Riccarton, Mr James Douglas at Stewarton, Mr John Finlay at Paisley, Mr Michael Macculloch at Bothwell, Mr William Maccubban at Douglas, Mr Alexander Rankin at Glasgow, Mr John Mitchell at Fintray, Mr Charles Stewart at Strachur, Dr John Smith at Campbelton, Mr Donald Macnicol at Lismore, Mr Norman Macleod at Morvern, Mr Alexander Niven at Dunkeld, Mr George Chapman at Kinfauns, Mr William Sheriff at St Ninian's, Mr William

Graham at Fossaway, Mr John Campbell at Kippen, Mr Spence Oliphant at Largo, Mr John Bruce at Forfar, Mr William Johnston at Monyfeith, Mr Andrew Bruce at Brechin, Mr James Walker at Dunnottar, Dr John Brown at Newhills, Dr John Ogilvy at Midmar, Mr George Forbes at Lochel, Mr Patrick Davidson at Rayne, Mr William Greig at Longside, Mr Alexander Rose at Auchterless, Mr Robert Grant at Cullen, Mr Francis Forbes at Grange, Mr James Grant at Inveraven, Mr John Grant at Abernethy, Mr John Reid at Duffus, Mr William Stephen at Rafford, Mr John Morrison at Nairn, Mr Alexander Fraser at Kirkhill, Mr Alexander Wood at Rosemarkie, Mr Henry Robertson at Killearn, Mr James Grant at Urquhart, Mr Alexander Downie at Lochalsh, Mr George Macculloch at Loth, Mr James Dingwall at Far, Mr William Sutherland at Wick, Mr James Bremner at Walls, Mr John Anderson at Stronfay, Mr John Inches at Nesting, *Ministers*; John Gbag, Esq; Dean of Guild of Edinburgh, William Ramsay, Esq; of Barnton, Donald Smith, Esq; Banker, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Robert Allan, Esq; Banker, John Dickson, Esq; of Culter, James Montgomery, Esq; Advocate, Andrew Hamilton, Esq; of Spittlehaugh, the Lord Advocate, Matthew Sandilands of Couston, Esq; the Earl of Lauderdale, Mr James Saunders, writer to the Signet; Mr William Johnston writer, Mr John Peat writer, Alexander Fergusson of Craigdarroch, Esq; Horatio Cannan, Esq; of Barley, Mr John Jeffrey writer, Thomas Adair, Esq; of Genoch, Mr Thomas Smith writer, George Fergusson, Esq; Advocate, David Boyle, Esq; Advocate, Mr Robert Davidson, Advocate, the Lord President, John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; Archibald Campbell younger of Succoth, Esq; Archibald Macdonald, Esq; of Sanda, William Campbell of Fairfield, Esq; Allan Macdougall, Esq; of Hayfield, Niel Fergusson, Esq; Advocate, Mr James Dickson bookseller, Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Beatson writer to the Signet, Professor William Richardson Glasgow, the Dean of Faculty, Mr Thomas Weir writer, Mr John Moncreiff apothecary, Mr Thomas Duncan writer, James Wauchope, Esq; Advocate, Adam Gillies, Esq; Advocate, John Burnet, Esq; Advocate, the Procurator, John Gordon, Esq; of Craig, William Madonald, Esq; of Reneaton, James Gordon, Esq; younger of Craig,

Craig, William Gordon, Esq; younger of Rothney, Mr John Taylor writer to the Signet, Mr Archibald Miln writer to the Signet, Mr George Andrew writer, Mr Baron Gordon, Isaac Grant, Esq; of Hilton, Mr James Robertson writer, Mr Thomas Gordon writer to the Signet, William Scott, Esq; banker, Dr Gregory Grant, Mr Alexander Grant writer to the Signet, Charles Ross, Esq; Advocate, Mr Kenneth Mackenzie writer, William Tait, Esq; Advocate, Bailie Daniel Miller, Mr James Grant writer to the Signet, Mr William Maclean merchant, Mr James Horne writer to the Signet, Mr Alexander Youngson writer, Malcolm Laing, Esq; Advocate, Mr Richard Richardson, merchant, Commissioner Grieve, Professor Andrew Dalzel, *Ruling Elders*; to BE A COMMITTEE of this Assembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty for these ends, according to, and in terms of His Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to His Majesty's design, expressed in His warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress. And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation; prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and, in all their labour

labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee, to have a particular regard in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Assemblies: And to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their registers the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning missionaries, in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof. And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, That they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts; and that every Catechist who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners or gentlemen of the district shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to the Cashier, a declaration that he has received the particular sum specified; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall in like manner bear, that the Catechist has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no such declaration of the Catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the Cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the Catechist shall, notwithstanding,

standing, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty. That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned, who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named, as members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers; and the said Committee are appointed to have their first general meeting at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of the first of the stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly; their second meeting (which is for fixing the annual scheme), upon the second Thursday of July, with power to those members who shall then be present, to adjourn; and their other two general meetings the first lawful days after the stated meetings of the Commission of the General Assembly, in November and March, within the Assembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the Commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foresaid Royal

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Bounty,

Bounty, to pay out the same, as he shall be directed and ordered by the foresaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be ministers ; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first Ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lie on the table till another meeting ; and in the mean time the person complained of, and the Presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just account of the matter, against the next meeting. And it is farther appointed, That after the yearly scheme of missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their answer to these letters, at farthest with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner ; and that the Committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves ; and if they cannot complete it, they shall name a sub-committee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And empowered the Committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it ; and that the said Committee, in making up the scheme of missionaries, &c. do not exceed the sum in the grant.



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## VII.

Edinburgh, May 24. 1794. *Sess. ult.*

*THE Report of the Committee appointed to class returns to Overtures was called for, given in, and read.—The Assembly ordered the Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers; and also the Overture respecting the Annexation and Suppression of Parishes to be retransmitted; with a renewal of the Recommendation to such Presbyteries as have sent no Returns, to send them without further delay.*

### New Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers.

Edinburgh, May 25. 1792. *Sess. 8.*

**T**HE General Assembly having taken under their serious consideration, the great danger to which the interests of Religion and of this Church may be exposed, by licensing any to preach the Gospel, who are not duly qualified for that important trust, do hereby enact and ordain, That in all time coming the following regulations shall be strictly observed:

I. It is hereby enacted, That no Student shall be entered upon the Roll of any Professor of Divinity, unless he shall produce to the said Professor a certificate from the Minister of the parish in which he has his usual residence; or in his absence, or during a vacancy in said parish, from some neighbouring Minister, bearing, that his character is suitable to his views; together with a diploma of Master of Arts, or certificates from the several Professors of Philosophy, under whom he hath studied, from which it may be clearly ascertained that, in some University or Universities, he hath gone through a full course of Philosophy in some winter-sessions of College preceding that in which the certificates are produced.

II.

II. The General Assembly do likewise hereby ordain, That all Students who have been inrolled by Professors of Divinity, in the manner prescribed by this act, shall continue to prosecute the study of Divinity for the term of six Sessions: Provided always, That if any Student hath given regular attendance in the Divinity Hall during three Sessions, his Course shall be considered as completed in four Sessions; and that if he hath given regular attendance in the Hall during two Sessions, his Course shall be considered as completed in five Sessions. And the Assembly do further ordain, That in each of these cases, Students shall be inrolled by the Professors during the several Sessions of their respective Courses, and deliver in the Divinity Hall, in the manner herein afterwards provided, an Exegesis in Latin, on some controverted Head in Divinity, a Homily in English, an Exercise and Addition, a Lecture on some large portion of Scripture, and a popular Sermon, together with such other Exercises as the Professors shall think proper to prescribe. And the Assembly farther enact and declare, That a Student is entitled to apply to the Professor for his certificates, that he may be proposed for trials, and that the preliminary steps may be taken by the Presbytery during the currency of the last Session of his Course, as above described; with this limitation, that if the said last Session is to be claimed as a Session of regular attendance, he shall, toward the conclusion thereof, obtain a new certificate of his attendance during its currency, and produce the same to the Presbytery or Synod.

III. Professors of Divinity are required to attend, as much as circumstances may permit, to the conduct of such Students as are under their care, and, as far as they find it practicable, to insist that every Student shall deliver his first discourse some time during his second Session, at the latest, and the remainder of his Discourses at such periods as may enable him to deliver the whole of them before the end of January, of the last Session of his Course.

IV. When a Student is proposed to any Presbytery, in order to be taken upon trials, the Presbytery shall be alone, and the motion for that purpose shall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting. In the mean time, the Presbytery shall appoint the Member by whom the Student has been proposed, to lay before the said meeting the certificate, or certificates in favour of the Student,

dent, that are specified in the third paragraph of the fifth section of this Act; to desire him to attend the same; and to inform him, that, previously to the meeting, he ought, as far as circumstances may permit, to wait on such Ministers of the Presbytery as have not formerly had an opportunity of conversing with him in private.

V. When the time appointed for considering the motion is arrived, the Presbytery shall strictly observe the following regulations.

1<sup>st</sup>, The Presbytery shall be alone, while they are employed in discussing the several preliminaries respecting Students who are proposed for trials.

2<sup>d</sup>, They shall require satisfying evidence, that every Student who is proposed for that purpose, has completed the twenty-first year of his age.

3<sup>d</sup>, No Student shall be admitted to trials, unless he produces to the Presbytery, a certificate or certificates from the Professor or Professors of Divinity, under whose tuition he hath studied, bearing, that he hath prosecuted his studies; and delivered his Discourses, in the manner prescribed by this act; and that his conduct, as far as consists with the knowledge of the said Professor, or Professors, has been in every respect suitable to his views in life. And the General Assembly do likewise hereby enact, That the Presbytery shall record at full length the said certificate, or certificates, in their minutes: And it is hereby enacted and declared, That the Student having lodged such certificate, or certificates, shall be entitled to obtain extracts of the same, if demanded.

4<sup>th</sup>, No Presbytery shall receive any Student upon trials, unless they are satisfied that he is of good report; sound in his principles; pious, sober, grave, and prudent, in his behaviour; of a peaceable disposition; and well affected to the happy establishment in this kingdom, both in Church and State. And, that the Presbytery may proceed with all due caution, in a matter of such peculiar importance, they shall not agree to the motion in behalf of the Student, unless his residence, during the year preceding, has been chiefly within their bounds; or he shall produce sufficient testimonials from the Presbytery, in whose bounds his residence has chiefly been, during that term, bearing, that his character is such as is described in the immediately preceding sentence of this paragraph, and recommending him, in these re-

H. respects,

1<sup>st</sup>, They shall, deliberately and seriously, take a conjunct view of the whole trials; and if they shall be of opinion, that the Student is not properly qualified to perform the duties incumbent on a Preacher of the Gospel, they shall, by no means, grant him a Licence, in his present circumstances.

2<sup>d</sup>, If, upon this review of the trials, the Presbytery are fully satisfied therewith, they shall record this opinion in their minutes.

3<sup>d</sup>, The Presbytery shall then propose to the Student the questions that are appointed to be put to all who pass Trials by act 10th Assembly 1711, and require him to subscribe the *Formula* which is prescribed by the said act. And the General Assembly strictly prohibit all Presbyteries from licensing any Student to preach the Gospel, who shall not give explicit and satisfying answers to these questions, and subscribe the said *Formula*.

4<sup>th</sup>, The Presbytery shall order the act of Assembly 1759, against Simoniackal practices, to be read to the Student in their presence.

*Lastly*, The Presbytery shall appoint their Moderator to licence the Student to preach the Gospel, and order their clerk to furnish him with an extract of his licence.

XI. For the better observance of this act, the General Assembly ordain, 1<sup>st</sup>, That it shall be printed among their other printed acts; 2<sup>d</sup>, That it shall be printed by itself, in some convenient form; 3<sup>d</sup>, That a copy of this separate edition shall be transmitted to each Professor of Divinity in the Universities of Scotland; and that the said Professors shall read the same in their respective Halls, once at least during every Session, and at such times as they have reason to expect the attendance of the greatest number of Students for that Session; and, *lastly*, That a copy of the same edition shall likewise be transmitted to the clerks of each Synod, and Presbytery, within the bounds of this Church, and that the said clerks shall keep the same along with their minutes; and bring it up to each meeting of their respective Courts, for the use of the Members.



## VIII.

Interim Act and Overture respecting  
the Annexation and Suppression of  
Parishes.

*Edinburgh, May 26. 1794. Sess. ult.*

**T**HE General Assembly, in all proposed cases of annexation and suppression, do enjoin Presbyteries to communicate to the Synod of the bounds the proposal that is made; that although it does not appear to them proper for the Church to give any opposition, it shall not be competent for them to express their consent to the proposed annexation and suppression, either by a deliverance in their minutes, or at the bar of the Court of Teinds, until they have obtained the consent of the Synod of the bounds; and further, that when they resolve to give opposition to any proposed annexation or suppression, they shall communicate their resolution, together with the grounds of their opposition, and the directions which they have given thereanent to the Synod of the bounds.

IX.



## IX.

## Act and Resolution respecting the Religious Education of Youth.

*Edinburgh, May 26. 1794. Sess. ult.*

**T**HE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the Church of Scotland, taking into their serious consideration the growth of licentiousness, both in principle and practice; and being fully persuaded that this evil, wherever it prevails, is in a great measure to be ascribed to the neglect of the religious education of youth; and the Assembly being well informed that the ancient and laudable practice of instructing youth in the principles of religion, by means of the Holy Scriptures, and the Catechisms received and acknowledged by this Church, has been much neglected in many parochial and other English and Latin Schools, particularly in the cities and towns of this kingdom: Wherefore, the General Assembly being resolved, as far as in them lies, to provide a remedy for this evil, did, and hereby do, strictly require and enjoin, that all parochial Schoolmasters, and other Teachers of Schools within this Church, shall cause the Holy Bible to be read as a regular exercise in their several Schools, by the children under their care. The General Assembly do moreover require and enjoin, that the Shorter Catechism, agreed upon by the Assembly of Divines at Westminster, and approved of by this Church, shall be taught in all parochial and other Schools; and that the children be required to commit this Catechism to memory, and by frequent repetition to fix it deep in their minds. And in order that the above regulations may be carried into effect, the General Assembly, in conformity to many preceding acts of Assembly, enjoin all the Ministers of this Church, to visit and examine from time to time the Schools within their respective parishes, and take care that the Teachers do their duty in those respects. And for a farther security in matters of such important concern, the General Assembly did,  
and

and hereby do, ordain all Presbyteries to make enquiry concerning the obedience given by their several members to this act; and farther, the General Assembly ordain all the Presbyteries of this Church to appoint presbyterial visitations of the Schools within their respective bounds, at least once in every year, and exercise that authority which, by the law of the land, as well as of the Church, is vested in them for obtaining the important end in view. The General Assembly moreover ordains, that this Act shall be printed separately; and a copy thereof transmitted to every Minister, and every parochial Schoolmaster within the bounds of this Church: And finally, that every Presbytery shall report their diligence, in compliance with the terms thereof, upon the back of their Commission to their Representatives in the ensuing General Assembly.

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## X.

### Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

*Edinburgh, May 26. 1794. Sess. ult.*

**T**HE next GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 21st day of May 1795.

*Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by*

ANDREW DALZEL, *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

T A B L E

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## ADMONITION AND INFORMATION respecting the PROFANATION of the LORD'S DAY.

AT Edinburgh, the twenty sixth day of May, one thousand seven hundred and ninety four years. Which day, the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the CHURCH of SCOTLAND having called for the Report of their Committee, appointed to consider the Overtures from the Presbytery of St. Andrews, and Synod of Perth and Stirling, respecting the profanation of the Lord's day, the same was given in and read;—together with the Opinion of his Majesty's Solicitor General, given at the request of the said Committee, in the absence of the Procurator of the Church, who was confined by severe illness. Which Report and Opinion having been considered by the Assembly, the said Opinion, together with extracts from the different Acts of Parliament therein referred to, are in name and by authority of the General Assembly hereunto subjoined; and the whole is ordered to be printed, that copies may be distributed by the special Committee appointed for that purpose, among the several Presbyteries of this Church: And at the same time, Presbyteries are enjoined to circulate the copies hereof, transmitted to them, throughout their several bounds, for the information of all concerned; and to act in other respects, conformably to the power vested in them, in such a prudent manner as shall seem best calculated for checking the further profanation of the Holy Sabbath. And the Assembly, thinking it expedient to confine the prosecutions, which it may be necessary to carry on, to those cases which shall be judged to be proper subjects of prosecution by the several Presbyteries, it is particularly recommended to the inferior judicatories of the Church, that no prosecution shall be raised, at the instance of any minister or kirk-session, or of any person appointed by them, without the special advice and consent of the Presbytery of the bounds, after the said Presbytery shall have deliberately considered the case.—And the GENERAL ASSEMBLY, impressed with the warmest sense of gratitude to the Divine Author of our Faith, for the appointment of that Day which was made for man; and reflecting with much satisfaction upon the advantages which the people of this country have derived from that devout observance of the Lord's Day, by which they have long been distinguished, do earnestly beseech and admonish all ranks to resist, by their example and their influence, every violation of that day, and every attempt to diminish the veneration in which it is held: In particular, they admonish parents, as they value the most essential interests of those who are dearest to them; and masters, and heads of families, as they desire to preserve their servants from those habits and practices which are most destructive of the good order of society, to employ every method which appears to them most winning and effectual for rendering the stated returns of the Lord's Day subservient to the instruction and improvement of the children, apprentices, and servants, over whom they have influence.

### *OPINION of his Majesty's Solicitor General, respecting the Observance of the Sabbath Day.*

THE statutes now in force, with respect to the observance of the Sabbath Day appear to me to be sufficient for checking the evil complained of.—The statutes which I mean are the following—Act 1661, c. 18.—1672, c. 22.—1693, c. 40.—1695, c. 13.—and Act 1701, c. 11.

By these statutes, every person guilty of profaning the Sabbath day, in any manner whatever, is made liable in a pecuniary penalty, *toties quoties*, to be recovered by prosecution before sheriffs, justices of peace, or any other judge ordinary. And the minister of every parish, the kirk session, or the presbytery, or a person named by them, is entitled to prosecute.

There appears, therefore, to be no defect in the law as it stands, if duly executed.—And the power of enforcing execution is lodged with the church judicatories themselves. Perhaps it might be proper to cause print the above statutes, and transmit copies thereof to the different presbyteries, so that due notification may be given to all concerned.

Edinburgh, 24th May 1794.

(Signed) ROBERT BLAIR.

*The following are the Acts of Parliament, and Part of Acts, referred to in the above Opinion.*

Anno 1661, c. 18.

### ACT for the Due Observation of the SABBATH DAY.

THE King's Majesty, considering how much it concerns the honour of God, that the Sabbath Day be duly observed, and all abuses thereof restrained: And that, notwithstanding of several Acts of Parliament made in that behalf, particularly the third Act of the sixth Parliament of King James the Sixth of blessed memory, the said day hath been much profaned by salmond-fishing, going of salt-pans, milns and killes, hiring of shearers, and using of merchandize on that day, and otherways. Therefore our Sovereign Lord, with the advice and consent of his Estates of Parliament, ratifies and approves all former Acts of Parliament, made for observation of the Sabbath Day, and against the breakers thereof; and by these presents inhibits and discharges all salmond-fishing, going of salt-pans, milns or killes; all hiring of shearers, carrying of loads, keeping of mercats, or using any sorts of merchandize on the said day, and all other profanation thereof whatsoever, under the pains and penalties following, viz. the sum of Twenty Pounds Scots for the going of ilk salt-pan, miln, or kill, on the said day, to be paid by the heritors and possessors thereof; and the sum of Ten Pounds for ilk shearer and fisher of salmond on the said day, the one half thereof to be paid by the hirers and conductors, and the other half by the persons hired; and the said sum of Ten Pounds for every other profanation of the said day: And which fines and penalties are to be uplifted and disposed of in manner contained in the Act and Instructions sent the Justices of Peace.—

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*Anno 1672, c. 22.*

ACT against PROFANENESS.

OUR Sovereign Lord, considering the many and great violations of the law of God, and of the laws of this kingdom, established by His Majesty and his royal predecessors, against cursing, swearing, &c. profanation of the Lord's day, mocking or reproaching of religion and the exercises thereof; — it is hereby statute and ordained, that besides the exercise of church discipline, according to the laws and practice used in this church, in every paroch within royal burgh, or wherein any of his Majesty's Privy Council or Lords of Session, Sheriff, Lord, or Bailiff of Regality, or their deputies or commissaries, have their residence, or keep courts, that the saids Counsellors or Lords of Session, Magistrates of such burghs, the Sheriffs, and the Lords and Bailiffs of Regalities or their deputies, the Commissaries, or any Justice of Peace, they, or any one or more of them, execute or cause execute the saids laws, against such delinquents in the several paroches where they reside as shall be dilated to them by the kirk-sessions, or other church judicatories. Providing always, likewise it is hereby provided, that the minister and kirk-session with the heritors of each parish, or such of them as upon public intimation by the minister from the pulpit, upon eight days warning, shall meet with the minister, and his assistants in discipline, have the nomination of a collector; who is to receive and compt for the fines so imposed; excepting to the royal burghs the nomination of their collectors, who have been accustomed so to nominate, they always being accomptable, as other collectors, for the uses after specified: And where there be any paroches, in which there is none of the saids above-named persons in authority resident, the minister and kirk-session, and heritors of the parish, or major part of them, who shall convene upon public intimation by the minister, upon eight days warning, shall nominate so often as they see cause, a person resident within the paroch, whom they find most fit for executing of the saids statutes, and shall under their hand offer the person so chosen to the Sheriffs, Lords, and Bailiffs of regalities, Stewarts, Commissaries, having the ordinary jurisdiction of that place, who are hereby authorized to give commission and deputation to the persons so chosen for convening the persons transgressors of the foresaid statutes, and to judge them according to law: And it is hereby declared, that all execution shall pass upon the decreets and sentences of the saids judges and commissioners, as do or may pass upon the decreets or sentences of Sheriffs, Bailiffs of royalty or regality, for executing of the saids statutes, conform to the tenor thereof in all points. With power to the said minister, kirk-session, and heritors of each paroch, convened in manner aforesaid, to modifye and appoint such part and portion of the sums arising by the saids decreets, to the collectors nominated by them for their services, as they shall find just, according to their pains and diligence. And it is hereby declared that the remainder of the saids sums shall belong to, and be made use of, for the poor of each paroch *respective*, in manner following; viz. The one half thereof for the use of the poor of each paroch to be sent to the correction houses, for being bred to lawful trades, conform to an Act of Parliament made in this Session of Parliament; and for which the collector shall be comptable to the heritors of each paroch, and shall deliver to them receipts from the masters of the correction-houses of the one half of the saids sums, toward the allowance of the said poor people, appointed to be payed out of each paroch by the said act: And the other half of the saids *fines* shall belong to the poor of each paroch *respective*, who by the said act, by reason of their age or infirmity, are appointed to be entertained within each paroch by the contributions at the paroch kirk, and for which the saids collectors are to be comptable to the minister and kirk-session of each paroch, or to the elders during the vacancy; and to be applied by them for the use of the poor, as they shall see cause.

*Anno 1693, c. 40.*

ACT against PROFANENESS.

OUR Sovereign Lord and Lady, taking to their serious consideration the profanity and immoralities that so much at present abound, and how much it concerns the glory of God, the honour of the Protestant religion; and the good and peace of the kingdom, that they be repressed and restrained. Do, therefore, with advice and consent of the Estates of Parliament, hereby ratify and revive all Acts of Parliament formerly made against sabbath breaking, prophane and idle swearing, drunkenness, or other immoralities whatsoever, ordaining the same to be put to strict execution with all diligence. And for the better effectuating thereof, do hereby empower, and ordains every presbytery within this kingdom, to appoint one or more within their respective bounds, whom they shall think fit to choise, to take notice of the foresaid vices and immoralities, and to dilate and prosecute the persons guilty thereof before the magistrates of the bounds, conform to the tenors of the saids Acts, and allowing to them, out of the fines and penalties that shall be incurred, not only their whole charges and expences of the said prosecutions, but also such further rewards as the Lords of their Majesty's Privy Council shall think fit.

*Anno 1695, c. 13.*

ACT against PROFANENESS.

OUR Sovereign Lord and Estates of Parliament, considering that the twenty fifth Act of the second Session of this current Parliament, intituled, Act against Profaneness, and the acts generally and particularly therein ratified, has not taken the wished effect, through the negligence of the magistrates, officers, and others concerned to put the same in execution; do hereby authorize, and strictly require and enjoin all Sheriffs and their deputies, Stewarts and their deputies, Bailies of bailiaries and regalities and their deputies, Magistrates of burghs royal, and Justices of Peace, within whose bounds any of the sins forbidden by the said laws, shall happen to be committed, to put the saids Acts to exact and punctual execution at all times, without necessity of any dispensation, and against all persons, whether officers, soldiers, or others, without exception, with this certification, that such of the saids judges, as shall refuse, neglect, or delay, to put the saids laws in execution, or any minister or kirk-session, or any person in their name, giving information, and offering

ing, shall, *toties quoties*, be subject and liable to a fine of One hundred Pound Scots, to be applied for behoof of the poor of the parish where the scandal complained on was committed: Declaring hereby that the agent for the kirk, the minister of the parish, or any other person having warrant from him, or from the kirk-session within the parish whereof the scandal complained on was committed, shall have good interest to pursue, before the Lords of Session, any of the foresaid judges who shall happen to refuse, neglect, or delay, to put the said laws against profaneness to exact and punctual execution, who are hereby ordained to proceed summarily without the order of the roll, and that it shall be a sufficient probation of their refusal, neglect, or delay, if the pursuer instruct by an instrument under a nottar's hand and witnesses thereto subscribing, and deponing thereupon, that he did inform the said judges of the said scandal, and offered a sufficient probation thereof, unless the judge so pursued condescend and instruct that within the space of ten days after the said application, he gave order to cite the party complained on to compare before him within the space of ten days, and that at the day of compareance he was ready and willing to have taken cognition and trial of the scandal complained on, and instruct and condescend on a relevant reason why the said laws were not put in execution against the person complained on.

Anno 1701, c. 11.

#### ACT against PROFANENESS.

—RATIFIES and approves the Acts following, viz. the Act of Parliament 1672, intituled Act against Profaneness, whereby all members of his Majesty's Privy Council, or Lords of Session, with all judges ordinary having their residence, or keeping courts in any paroch, are ordained to execute or cause execute the said laws against any such delinquents therein as shall be dilated to them by the kirk-sessions or other church judicatories, with power to the kirk-session and heritors to name a collector of the fines; as also, where none of the foresaid persons in authority reside, to nominate a person resident within the paroch, whom they shall offer to the judge ordinary of the bounds, to the end he may grant them a deputation to the effect foresaid: As likewise to modify and appoint such fees to the said collectors out of the said fines as they shall find just, and that the remainder of the said fines be applied for the use of the poor, in manner specified in the said Act.—The Act of Parliament 1693, also intituled Act against Profaneness, whereby every presbytery within this kingdom is impowered and ordained to appoint one or more within their respective bounds to take notice of all vices and immoralities, and to dilate and prosecute the persons guilty, conform to the tenor of the former Acts, and allowing to them, out of the fines, not only their whole expences, but such rewards as the Lords of Privy Council shall think fit.—The Act 1695, likewise intituled, Against Profaneness, whereby all the judges ordinary and their deputies, and all justices of Peace, within whose bounds any of the said offences shall happen, are authorized and enjoined to put the said Acts against Profaneness to exact and punctual execution at all times, without necessity of any dispensation, and against all persons, whether officers, soldiers, or others, without exception; with certification that any of the said judges that shall refuse or neglect to put the said laws in execution, upon the application of any minister, kirk-session, or any person in their name, informing and offering sufficient probation, he shall be liable and subject, *toties quoties*, to a fine of One hundred Pound Scots for the poor of the paroch where the scandal happened; declaring that the agent for the kirk, the minister, or kirk-session of the paroch, or any having their warrant, shall have good interest to pursue before the Lords of Session any of the said judges refusing or neglecting as said is. And that the said refusal or neglect shall be sufficiently proven by an instrument under a nottar's hand and witnesses subscribing, and deponing that the said information was given, and probation offered, as the said act more fully bears.—And lastly, the Act 1696, also intituled, Act against Profaneness, in the hail heads, articles, and clauses thereof, all which laws and Acts of Parliament generally and particularly above narrated, His Majesty, with advice and consent foresaid, ordains to be put to strict and punctual execution in all points; and farther, all ministers and kirk-sessions, and heritors, concerned, are hereby required and ordained to do and act their parts faithfully in the premises, as they will be answerable; and in case any person shall be excommunicate for not answering, or for not obeying and satisfying the church, when processed before them for profaneness and immorality, or in case that any person, cited on the account foresaid, shall be declared by the church to be contumacious, then, and in either of these cases, His Majesty, with advice and consent foresaid, statutes and ordains, that, upon application made by a Presbytery, Provincial Synod, or General Assembly, to his Majesty's Privy Council, representing the same, the Lords of Privy Council shall represent the said matter to His Majesty, that he may be duly informed anent the foresaid person found guilty or contumacious, as said is, as a person not fit to be employed or continued in any place of public trust civil or military.

*The above printed under the inspection of the Special Committee appointed for that purpose, and ordered to be transmitted to the several Presbyteries.*

ANDREW DALZEL, CL. ECCL. SCOT.



# ABRIDGMENT

OF THE

**ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, held at Edinburgh in the year 1794, which are not printed at full length.**

*Thursday, May 15. 1794. Sess. 1.*

**A**FTER Sermon by the Reverend Dr THOMAS HARDY, one of the Ministers of the City, and *Regius* Professor of Divinity and Church History in the University of Edinburgh, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders convened in the Assembly-house in the usual manner: And, after prayer by the said Dr Thomas Hardy, the Reverend Dr ROBERT ARNOT, Professor of Divinity in St Mary's College, St Andrew's, being unanimously chosen Moderator, he, at the Assembly's desire, took the Chair.

The KING's Commission to the Right Honourable DAVID Earl of LEVEN, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person, read, and ordered to be recorded. DA-See Printed Acts, No. I.

The KING's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, read, and ordered to be recorded. and No. II

The Commissioner's Speech at the opening of the Assembly, and the Moderator's speech in return thereto.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

An Humble and Loyal Address to his Majesty on the present state of public affairs; agreed to, and a Committee appointed to prepare the same.

A Committee named for revising the Commissions to the Members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof, naming Ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, and receiving Lists of Probationers in the several Presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

A Committee for Overtures named.

A Committee for bills, references, and appeals, named. Adjournment.

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*Friday,*

*A B R I D G M E N T. 1794.*

*Friday, May 16. 1794. Sess. 2.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

A diet spent in Prayer.

Act VII, of the Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of the business of the Assembly, read, and the observation thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the Commissioner.

The Committee for revising Commissions appointed to meet.

The Committees for overtures and bills; and the Committee for answering the King's Letter, appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

*Saturday, May 17. 1794. Sess. 3.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

The Moderator made an apology for the absence of the Procurator, who was confined by severe indisposition; which apology was unanimously sustained; and, at the same time, the Assembly expressed their regret for the cause of the Procurator's absence.

See Printed Acts,  
No. III.

The draught of the Answer to the King's most gracious letter to this Assembly being brought in and approved, his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertook to transmit the same to his Majesty.

and No. IV.

The draught of a Humble and Loyal Address to his Majesty, on the present state of public affairs, being brought in and approved, his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, likewise undertook to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The Report of the Committee for Overtures given in and read.

It was objected to the Commission from the City of Glasgow, "That it is subscribed by a person of the name of John Orr, without the designation of Clerk." The objection sustained, and the Commissioners named ordained to be expunged from the roll.

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ABRIDGMENT. 1794.

It was objected to the Commission from the Burgh of Wigton, "That the Kirk Session's attestation is signed *Andw. Donan Mr. and John Hatborn Elder.*"

The Objection repelled; and the Commission sustained.

The Roll of Causes transmitted by the Committee for Bills called for, produced, and read.

Agreed to take up the cause against Mr Shepherd at Daviot on Thursday next.

A Committee named to revise the Actings and Proceedings of the Commission of the last General Assembly.

A Committee named to revise the Actings and Proceedings of the Committee appointed by last Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty for reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

A Committee named to revise the accounts of the Procurator and Agent for the Church and other public accounts, consider the state of the Church's public money, and prepare Overtures about the same.

The Committee for Overtures appointed to meet this evening, and empowered to receive from the several Members any Instructions given to them by the respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures thereon to the Assembly, and to receive and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and Superstition, and prepare Overtures for preventing and suppressing thereof.

The Committee of Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Monday, May 19. 1794. Sess. 4.

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

The Report of the Committee for Overtures called for, given in, and read.

It was objected to the Commission from the Burgh of Perth, "That it is dated the 7th day of April, which is within the 40 days." The objection sustained, and the Commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The Overtures contained in the Report of the Committee ordered to lie on the table.

Report of the Committee for Bills called for, produced, and read.

Causes fixed for hearing.

Days

## ABRIDGMENT. 1794

Days fixed for hearing Overtures, and to receive the Report of the Committee on the Enzie fund.

Synod Books called for.

Committees appointed to revise the Synod Books of Lothian and Tweeddale, Dumfries, and Aberdeen.

The Committees for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

*Tuesday, May 20. 1794. Sess. 5.*

*Sederunt.*

A new Commission produced.

Report of the Committee for Overtures called for, given in, and read.

Report of the Committee for Bills called for, given in, and read.

Committees appointed to meet.

An Appeal, at the instance of James Henderson of Blairs, and others, Heritors and Elders, and Heads of Families, of the united parishes of Larbert and Dunipace, from a sentence of the Synod of Perth and Stirling, of date the 16th October last, in a process at their instance against Mr Robert Knox, Preacher of the Gospel, presentee to these parishes, charging him with certain improper practices, heard. The Assembly unanimously affirmed the sentence of the Synod of Perth and Stirling, in as far as it reverses the sentence of the Presbytery of Stirling, and finds the libel not relevant; and declared the said libel irrelevant, and dismiss the same accordingly; and appoint the Presbytery of Stirling to proceed to moderate in, and judge of, a call to Mr Robert Knox, on or before the second Thursday of July next; and, in the event of any appeal or complaint taken against the judgment of the Presbytery on the call, or in any other step of the proceedings in this cause, the Assembly empower their Commission to judge of such appeals and complaints, and to give such orders as they shall see necessary for carrying on the settlement of the presentee, according to the rules of the Church: And the Assembly appoint the Presbytery of Stirling from the time of their first ordinary meeting, and until the call shall be sustained, to employ or allow their own Members only, or the presentee, to perform Divine Service in the united parishes of Labert and Dunipace.

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An Appeal at the instance of John Miller and others, Heads of Families, in the parish of Dunfyre, from a sentence of the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, dismissing the appellants petition against the translation of the Reverend Mr Patrick Mollison, from the parish of Walston to the parish of Dunfyre, heard: The Assembly reverse the sentence of the Synod, and find, that in the particular circumstances of this case, the translation of Mr Mollison from the parish of Walston to the parish of Dunfyre is inexpedient; and therefore refuse to grant the said translation, leaving it to the patron of Dunfyre to present a qualified person to that parish, according to law.

The Committee of bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

*Wednesday May 21. 1794. Sess. 6.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

Overtures read, and the consideration of them delayed till a future day.

Report of the Committee for Bills called for, given in, and read.

A Dissent and Complaint by Messrs George Chapman and John Inglis, members of the Presbytery of Perth, from a sentence of that Presbytery, respecting a Chapel of Ease at Perth; heard. The General Assembly, without a vote, reversed the sentence of the Presbytery of Perth, in respect of certain circumstances stated to the Assembly, and find it inexpedient to establish the chapel in question under the direction of the petitioners; but, from the necessity which in the course of the proceedings has been represented to exist for an additional place of worship in the town and parish of Perth; and to provide sufficient accommodation for religious worship to all the inhabitants thereof; The Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Perth, in case an application shall be made to them by the Magistrates and Kirk Session of Perth, for an additional place of worship under their own management, subject to the jurisdiction of the Presbytery, to pay all due attention to such application, so as most effectually and speedily to secure the object in view.

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*A B R I D G M E N T. 1794.*

The Assembly agreed to resolve themselves into a Committee of the whole House on the cause of Mr Shepherd at Daviot, to meet to-morrow at eleven o'clock ; and authorised said Committee to receive any papers that might be transmitted to them in the said cause by the Committee of Bills.

The Committees for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

*Thursday, May 22. 1794. Sess. 7.*

*Sederunt.*

Mr Thomson at Carnock withdrew his dissent from the Assembly's decision of yesterday, respecting the Chapel of Ease of Perth.

Report of the Committee for Overtures called for, given in, and read.

Report of the Committee of Bills called for, given in, and read.

Agreed to take up the cause anent the settlement of Crofs and Burnefs on Saturday.

The report of the Committee of the whole house on the cause, the Presbytery of Garioch against Mr Robert Shepherd, minister of Daviot, read, and approved of. The Assembly therefore ordained the passages in the printed case, which were marked by the clerk in presence of the Committee of the whole house, and now read over, as far as they are admitted into the record, to be expunged by the clerk of Assembly ; and the other passages in the printed case to be expunged by Mr Skene Keith at the bar, who acknowledged himself to be responsible for them : And the Assembly agreed, That after the decision in this cause, they will deliberate upon the degree of censure which may be due to the Presbytery of Garioch, and Mr Skene Keith for having inserted the said passages contained in the said printed papers : Farther, the Assembly find, That the said Elspeth Farquharson, Margaret Farquharson, and Alexander Paip are totally inadmissible as witnesses in this cause ; and instruct the Presbytery of Garioch not to examine any of these three persons ; and farther, That they shall admit no witnesses to be examined by either party upon any thing said extrajudicially by the said Elspeth Farquharson, Margaret Farquharson, and Alexander Paip, or by any other persons at any period whatever ; and that they shall admit no evidence to  
reprobate

reprobate the testimony of the witnesses examined to establish the objections against the admissibility of the said Elspeth Farquharson, Margaret Farquharson, and Alexander Paip. The Assembly dismissed the three appeals respecting Jean Thomson, John Maitland and Elspeth Farquharson. The Assembly find, That in respect of the judgment already given, it is unnecessary to take up the reference from the Synod of Aberdeen. Likewise, in respect of the judgment already given, the counsel for Mr Shepherd having appeared at the bar, and judicially passed from all the appeals taken by him against the sentences of the inferior courts, The Assembly declared the said appeals passed from accordingly. And farther, the representatives of the Presbytery of Garioch, in respect of the judgment already given on the first reference, having judicially withdrawn the reference from the Presbytery of Garioch relating to William Angus and Rachel Gibb, The Assembly declare the said reference withdrawn accordingly. And the representatives of the Presbytery of Garioch having likewise judicially withdrawn their petition and complaint against the conduct of the Synod of Aberdeen, The Assembly declare the said petition and complaint withdrawn accordingly. Finally, The Assembly direct the Presbytery of Garioch, if they shall be advised to proceed farther in this cause, to conclude the proof, and give a final judgment in the whole matter, betwixt and the meeting of the Synod of Aberdeen in October next.

The Assembly, in terms of the above judgment, proceeded to deliberate upon what degree of censure is due to the Presbytery of Garioch, and Mr Skene Keith, for using the expressions with so much reason complained of; and having deliberated accordingly, unanimously directed their Moderator to intimate to Mr Skene Keith at the bar, their dissatisfaction with his conduct, and the conduct of the Presbytery of Garioch, for inserting in papers laid before the Assembly such highly censurable expressions as those in question, and to recommend to him, and to the Presbytery, to be more upon their guard for the future, with respect to the expressions they use concerning the Church-courts or their brethren; and which was done by the Moderator from the chair accordingly: And the Assembly ordain an extract of this minute to be transmitted to the Moderator of the Presbytery of Garioch; and ordain him to lay the same before the  
Presbytery,

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Presbytery, who are hereby appointed to cause the same to be inserted in their record.

The Committee on public accounts appointed to meet.  
Adjournment.

*Friday, May 23. 1794. Sess. 8.*

*Sederunt.*

The public accounts, and the Report of the Committee on new Applications produced, and ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow.

The Report of the Trustees of the fund established by Act of Parliament for a provision to Ministers Widows, &c. containing an account of their proceedings since last General Assembly, and a state of the fund under their management, given in, and ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow: And upon a motion, the thanks of the House were given from the chair to Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood, for his fidelity, attention and prudence in the management of the fund.

A Committee appointed to consider the overtures from the Presbytery of St Andrew's, and from the Synod of Perth and Stirling, respecting the due observation of the Lord's Day, and to report to the Assembly at a future diet.

The Overture from the Synod of Perth and Stirling, anent printing the Larger Catechism of this Church, was read:—Upon a motion, the Assembly unanimously agreed, that it be recommended to the printer for the Church, to cause a new impression of the said Larger Catechism to be printed with all convenient speed.

The overture by Mr Rankin, respecting the religious education of youth was read, and unanimously approved of, and a Committee appointed to frame the substance thereof into an act and recommendation of the General Assembly, which they shall lay before the Assembly at a future diet; and which, upon being approved of, shall be inserted among the printed acts of this Assembly.

The Assembly then heard Mr Heron upon the subject of his complaint against the Committee of overtures, for refusing to transmit his overture to the Assembly. Upon a motion made, the Assembly unanimously approved of the Report of the Committee of Overtures respecting this overture.

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A Committee appointed to consider the overture respecting Chapels of Ease, to report to next Assembly.

The Committee of bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Saturday, May 24. 1794. Sess. 9.

*Sederunt.*

A new Commission produced.

The Report of the Committee for bills called for, given in, and read.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him and his cautioners of the sum of L. 538 : 6 : 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sterling, disbursed by him, and appointing that he take credit in his next account for the sum of L. 38 : 6 : 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the account of Dr William Gloag, sub-clerk of Assembly, and exonerating and discharging him of the sum of L. 48 : 0 : 1 Sterling, disbursed by him, and appointing that he take credit in his next account for the sum of L. 10 : 10 : 1 Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the account of Mr James Dickson, Printer for the Church, and ordering payment of the sum of L. 17 : 16 : 6 Sterling, being the amount thereof.

Act approving of the account of Mr Elphinstone Balfour, Stationer to the Church, and ordering payment of the sum of L. 17 : 12 : 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sterling, being the amount thereof.

The Report of the Committee, on the public funds of the Church called for, and the Committee ordered to meet again on Monday next.

The Report of the visitors of the Commission record called for; the Commission's conduct approved of; thanks given to the Moderator of the Commission, and their book ordered to be attested.

The Report of the Committee for naming members of the Commission of this Assembly, and preparing instructions to them, given in and approved of. The Assembly added thereto Dr George Hill, Principal of St Mary's College, St Andrew's, in place of the Moderator; and also added those whose Commissions had been rejected by this Assembly on account of informality, viz. from the city of Glasgow, Archibald M Campbell, See printed Acts, No. V.

Campbell, Esq; Advocate; and from the burgh of Perth, John Caw, Esq; present Provost of Perth.

The Report of the visitors of the Royal Bounty record given in and read; the conduct of the Managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

See printed Acts, No. VI. A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a Commission and instructions to them.

The Synod-book of Lothian and Tweeddale ordered to be attested.

The Synod-book of Dumfries ordered to be attested.

The Synod-book of Aberdeen ordered to be attested; and, at the same time, that the remarks given in upon that book by the Committee shall be delivered into the hands of the Synod-clerk, to be laid by him before the Synod for their consideration.

The Report of the Trustees of the fund established by act of Parliament for a provision to Ministers widows, &c. again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register kept for that purpose.

The Report of the Committee appointed to class the returns to overtures was called for, given in, and read.

The Assembly ordered the overture respecting the licensing of Probationers, and also the overture on the annexation and suppression of parishes to be re-transmitted, with a recommendation to such Presbyteries as have sent no returns, to send up their opinions without farther delay; which the Moderator from the chair, at the Assembly's desire, intimated to all the representatives of Presbyteries present.

Upon a motion by Sir Henry Moncreiff, in consequence of a letter from the Lord Advocate, the Assembly re-appointed the same Committee as before, on the bill for defining and explaining the power of the Court of Teinds, with their former powers, who are to report to next Assembly.

The Report of the Committee on the Enzie fund called for, produced, and read: It was moved and seconded, That the Assembly approve of the Report of the Committee, dismiss the complaint of the Dissenters, find that it was competent for the Committee on the Enzie fund to supply the vacancy in the Enzie Mission, and that therefore the Assembly approve of the Committee's election of Mr Cruickshank as their Missionary to that district under their charge, and confirm the same. Another motion was made and seconded, That the General Assembly, in consideration that the Committee on the Enzie fund have exceeded their powers

powers in appointing Mr Cruickshank to that Mission, do therefore annul the Committee's appointment of the said Mr Cruickshank, and declare the election void. The Assembly agreed to the following state of the vote, First or Second motion; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried, Second motion: Therefore the General Assembly, in consideration that the Committee of the Enzie fund have exceeded their powers, in appointing Mr Cruickshank to that Mission, annul the Committee's appointment of the said Mr Cruickshank, and declare the said election void.

The Assembly delayed the farther business of the Enzie Missionary till Monday.

The Committee of bills appointed to meet.

The Orkney cause delayed till Monday.

The Committee on the overture respecting the due observation of the Lord's Day, appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

*Monday, May 26. 1794. Sess. ult.*

*Sederunt.*

The Report of the Committee for bills called for, given in, and read.

The Report of the Committee on new applications called for, given in, and read.

A Committee appointed to consider of the means of giving most effectual aid to the Presbytery of Hamilton and Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, in prosecuting the objects of their petition to the Assembly, respecting the cause of the schoolmaster of Bothwell, and to report to next Assembly.

As to the Petition from the Synod of Aberdeen, for aid from the public funds, the Assembly authorise the Procurator to state to the Court what shall appear to him to be for the interest of the Church, but under the express condition that the funds of the Church shall not be subjected to any expence.

Ag approving of the account of Mr George Cairncross, agent for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him of the sum of L. 68 : 7 : 7 Sterling disbursed by him, and appointing that he debit himself in his next account with the sum of L. 55 : 1 : 1 Sterling, being the balance due by him.

The Report of the Committee on the due observation of the Lord's day, was called for, given in, and read, together with the opinion of the Solicitor-General, given at the desire of the Committee in the indisposition  
of

of the Procurator. The Assembly approved of the Report, with this amendment, that instead of the appointment of a Committee, the Assembly refer to the Commission to follow out what is contained in the Report, granting to them full power to that effect.

Upon a motion made, the Assembly appoint their Moderator to write a letter of thanks to the Solicitor-General for his great attention to the interests of religion, and the request of the Committee of the Assembly on this occasion.

See printed Acts,  
No. IX.

The Committee on the Overture respecting the religious education of youth, gave in the draught of an act on that subject in terms of a former resolution of the Assembly; which draught being read, the Assembly approved thereof, and ordained accordingly.

List of Probationers produced; their names read out, and ordered to be recorded.

The Committee on the embarrassed state of the Church's funds renewed, to report to next Assembly.

Upon a motion made, the Moderator was authorised to write a letter of thanks to Mr Charles Kerr, his Majesty's Printer, for his strenuous exertions, that copies of the Bible should be correctly printed, and furnished at the most moderate rate.

—No. VIII. The Assembly upon a motion made, agreed that the Overture on the Annexation and Suppression of parishes, should be converted into an interim Act of the Assembly.

The Committee on the Orkney grievances renewed, and to give in their Report to next Assembly.

The Assembly, in pursuance of the resolution of Saturday last, proceeded to the farther consideration of the Enzie Mission. A motion was made and seconded, That the Assembly proceed immediately to the election of a Missionary for the Enzie; and Mr Daniel Cruickshank, house-governor to George Heriot's Hospital, was named as a candidate well qualified for that Mission: Another motion was made and seconded, That the Assembly shall elect Mr George Middleton, an ordained Minister residing within the Presbytery of Fordyce, Missionary for the Enzie: The Assembly agreed to put the vote *Mr Cruickshank* or *Mr Middleton*: And the roll being called and votes marked, it carried Mr Middleton. Therefore, the General Assembly, in whom the sole power of the appointment of a Missionary on the Enzie fund is vested, appoint the said Mr George Middleton their Missionary



ry to the said district of the Enzie accordingly; appointing him to officiate there in that capacity, *ad vitam aut culpam*, and giving and granting to him the salary of L. 55 Sterling *per annum*, to commence from the 1st of May current; with the other emoluments belonging to that charge.

The Committee on the Enzie fund renewed, with the former powers.

A reference by the Presbytery of North Isles, respecting the settlement of Mr William Grant in the parishes of Crofs, Burness and North Ronaldshay in Orkney, was read; and the Assembly having heard Mr John Anderson, did, without hearing the Counsel for the Patron and Presentee, unanimously find, That there are no just grounds of objections against the Presentation given by Sir Thomas Dundas, Baronet, to Mr Grant the Presentee, nor against the certificates, and the extract of his Licence produced by the said Presentee; and in respect of the circumstances of this case, the Assembly appoint the Presbytery of North Isles to proceed without farther delay to take the necessary steps for settling Mr Grant in the united parishes of Crofs, Burness, and North Ronaldshay, according to the rules of the Church, and to proceed therein so as to have the settlement completed on or before the 15th day of September next, and to report their obedience to this sentence to the Commission in November next. And the Assembly do farther unanimously find, that the conduct of the Presbytery of North Isles, with respect to the said presentee, has been oppressive and vexatious, and do declare their high disapprobation of the same, and ordain the Presbytery to insert an extract of this judgment into their records.

All causes brought before this Assembly, and not discussed by them, referred to the Commission, with power to judge and finally determine therein: And the Commission empowered to follow out the objects of the report of the Committee of the Assembly relating to the observation of the Lord's day; and also to judge and finally determine in any question which may be brought before them relating to the settlement of the parishes of Larbert and Dunipace; and to the settlement of Mr William Grant in the parishes of Crofs and Burness.

Protestation admitted at the instance of the Presbytery of Churnside against Sir John Stirling, Baronet, and others, subscribers for a chapel of Ease at Renton.

*ABRIDGMENT.* 1794.

Protestation admitted at the instance of Mr David Black,  
in the cause of Mr Moir, Student in Divinity.

A Committee named to revise the minutes of the Assembly's proceedings at this, and all other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of the Assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.

The Moderator's speech to the Assembly, and to his Grace the Commissioner.

The Lord High Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.  
Act appointing next diet of Assembly.

See printed Acts,  
No. X.

The Assembly concluded with Prayer, singing of Psalms, and pronouncing the Blessing.

THE PRINCIPAL  
A C T S  
OF THE  
General Assembly  
OF THE  
C H U R C H  
OF  
S C O T L A N D,

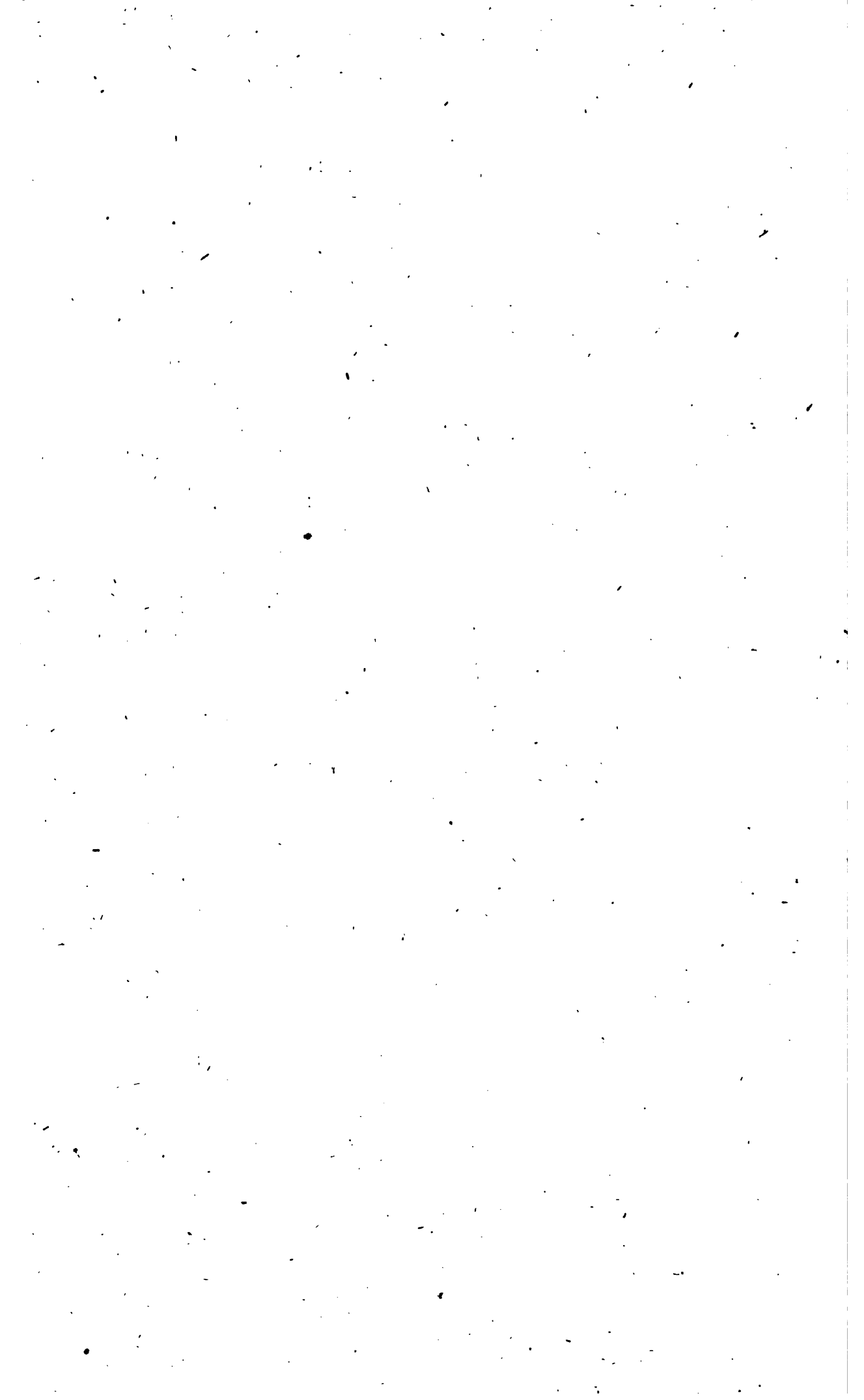
CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, THE 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF MAY 1795.

COLLECTED AND EXTRACTED FROM THE RECORDS BY THE CLERK THEREOF.



EDINBURGH:  
PRINTED BY JAMES DICKSON, PRINTER TO THE CHURCH OF  
SCOTLAND.

M.DCC.XCV.





THE PRINCIPAL  
A C T S  
OF THE  
**General Assembly**  
OF THE  
CHURCH, OF SCOTLAND,

Begun at EDINBURGH, the 21st day of MAY 1795,  
and concluded the 26th day of the said Month and  
Year.

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I.

The KING's Commission to DAVID Earl  
of LEVEN produced, and ordered to  
be recorded.

*Edinburgh, May 21. 1795.*

**T**HE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this national  
CHURCH being convened and constituted,  
there was produced to them, by the Right  
Honourable DAVID EARL of LEVEN, the  
KING's Commission, sealed with the seal ap-  
pointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in  
*Scotland*, in place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making  
and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner  
and

and Representative in this Assembly ; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Assembly ; —the tenor whereof follows :

**G**EORGIUS, *Dei gratia, Magnæ Britanniae, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor* : Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentēs literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem Nos considerantes, quod Generalis Ecclesiæ Scotiæ Conventus in vigesimum primum diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit ; Nosque abundè cupidi, et necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem ecclesiæ generalis conventus die statuto debitè observetur, atque rebus magni momenti Nos aliò vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus ; Nosque abundè satisfacti de sufficienti et fidelitate fidelissimi et predilectissimi Nostri consanguinei Davidis Comitæ de Leven, quod ad summum munus Nostri supremi Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum ritè exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus : Noveritis igitur, Nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, tenoreque præsentium, nominare, constituere, et ordinare, memoratum fidelissimum et prædilectissimum Nostrum consanguineum Davidem Comitem de Leven, supremum Nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum sacram Nostram Personam et auctoritatem regalem repræsentandi, nec non presentiam Nostram supplendi, et locum Nostrum in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario Nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plenè adeoque liberè in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius in eodem summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si Nos ipsi personaliter præsentēs facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula quæ dictus David Comes de Leven, in hac Nostra Commissionē prosequenda legitime fecerit, seu fieri ordina-verit, Nos firmiter approbamus, et ratificamus. Insuper omnibus et singulis dicti conventus et ecclesiæ pastoribus et presbyteris cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britanniae Scotiam vocatam, subditis Nostris, cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum Davidem Comitem de Leven, tanquam supremum Nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum, reve-reantur, agnoscant et audiant, stricte mandamus et præcipimus : Atque hanc Nostram Commissionem à dicto vigesimo primo die Maii, proximi incipere, et deinceps durante subsequente sessione dicti generalis conventus

*conventus in vigore continuare, declaramus, vel usque dum a Nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, presentibus sigillum Nostrium per Unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotiâ vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus. Apud aulam Nostram apud St James's, vicesimo primo mensis Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo et nonagesimo quinto, Regni-  
que Nostri anno trigesimo quarto.*

*Per signaturam manu S. D. N. Regis suprascriptam.*



## II.

**The KING's most gracious Letter to  
the General Assembly, presented to  
them by his Majesty's Commissioner.**

**GEORGE R.**

**R**IGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well.—It is with increasing satisfaction that We again embrace the opportunity of the meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, of assuring that Venerable Body of the high sense We entertain of their conduct in the discharge of the important trusts that have been reposed in them, and of declaring Our unalterable resolution to maintain the Establishment they represent in the full and free enjoyment of all its rights and privileges. We have again constituted Our Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousin, DAVID Earl of LEVEN, to represent Our Royal Person in this Assembly, being well satisfied with his upright and faithful conduct in the execution of that important trust, and not doubting but he must continue to be acceptable to you, from the affection to the Church of Scotland, and the zeal for the interests of Religion, which he has manifested on so many former occasions.

sions. The indissoluble connection which subsists, and ever must subsist, between the temporal prosperity of a people and their firm adherence to the practice of Religion and Virtue, gives to the immediate objects of your deliberation an importance, which, in proportion as it dignifies your duty, calls upon you, at the same time, for the most zealous and faithful discharge of it; and as nothing can ever be nearer Our heart than the happiness of Our people, so no services will ever be more highly acceptable to Us, than such as tend to promote it. Relying upon the wisdom and discretion you have at all times so eminently displayed, We commend you to the protection of the Divine Providence, through the blessing of which upon your pious endeavours, We firmly trust you will bring this meeting to a happy conclusion. And so we bid you heartily farewell.—Given at Our Court at St James's, the 11th day of May 1795, in the thirty-fifth year of Our Reign.

By his Majesty's Command,

PORTLAND.

Addressed thus:—*To the Right Reverend The Moderator, Ministers and Elders of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

### III.

## The General Assembly's Answer to the KING's most gracious Letter.

*May it please your Majesty,*

**T**HE gracious letter with which your Majesty has been pleased to honour this meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland was received with profound respect and gratitude.

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It yields us the highest satisfaction, that our conduct in discharging the important trusts which have been reposed in us, has received Your Majesty's approbation; and we rely with entire confidence on Your unalterable resolution to maintain our National Church in the full and free enjoyment of all her rights and privileges.

The hereditary and warm attachment of the Earl of LEVEN to the interests of religion and good government, his affectionate regard to the Church of Scotland, his amiable character and exemplary conduct in private life, together with his approved experience and knowledge in the duties of the high office with which he is entrusted, render the re-appointment of him to represent Your Majesty's Royal Person a most acceptable mark of favour to this Assembly.

Your Majesty's Royal Donation for the propagation of Religion in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, we receive as a repeated proof of Your paternal attention to the spiritual, as well as to the temporal interests of Your subjects; and it shall be our endeavour, by a wise and faithful application of it, to promote the pious and benevolent purpose for which it was bestowed.

Firmly convinced as we are of the indissoluble connection which must ever subsist between the temporal prosperity of a people and their adherence to the practice of Religion and Virtue, we shall exert our most strenuous endeavours to maintain and improve that happy union, by impressing a just sense of the blessed effects of it upon the minds of all those who are committed to our care: And we trust, that the great objects of our deliberations will, upon all occasions, animate us to persevere, with increasing zeal and diligence, in the discharge of our duty, upon which they reflect so much dignity. While we rejoice in the persuasion, that nothing is ever dearer to Your Majesty, or nearer to Your heart, than the happiness of Your people, we have, at the same time, the satisfaction of knowing, that no services can ever be more acceptable to You, or can more effectually secure to us the continuance of Your Royal approbation.

Your Majesty's reliance on the wisdom and discretion of this Church, is a powerful incitement to us to keep constantly before us the important ends of our meeting, and an encouragement to carry on all our deliberations with that spirit of moderation and unanimity

nimity which is so becoming the character we bear, and so well calculated to bring this present meeting of the General Assembly to a happy and satisfactory conclusion.

That Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, may protect Your MAJESTY'S Person, direct Your Councils, and prosper Your Administration; that he may bless our gracious QUEEN, their Royal Highnesses the PRINCE and PRINCESS of Wales, and all the Royal Family; and that, after reigning long, with wisdom and felicity, over a free, happy and grateful people, You may receive that crown of righteousness which fadeth not away,—are the earnest Prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient,

And most loyal Subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, }  
May 23. 1795. }

JAMES MEEK, *Moderator.*



## IV.

**ADDRESS to His Majesty on the Nuptials of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, with Her Most Serene Highness Caroline Princess of Brunswick.**

*May it please Your Majesty,*

**WE** Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in the General Assembly, beg leave humbly to approach the Throne, with our warmest congratulations on the marriage of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, with an Amiable Princess of the Illustrious House of Brunswick,—an House from which has sprung a Race of Kings, under whose auspicious Government, our National Liberty and Prosperity have been secured and increased.

This important event must at any time have been interesting to us, as it flatters us with the pleasing hope of having Your Majesty's Royal Line extended down to the latest Posterity, and as it contributes to Your domestic happiness: But especially, in the present period, have we seen, with the most unfeigned joy, Your Majesty's paternal wishes so happily fulfilled by this auspicious Union, which, having diffused such universal satisfaction through the whole empire, gives Your Majesty at once the amplest proof, that You possess unimpaired the warmest affection of Your subjects, and the strongest security that Your Royal Family shall ever retain it.

But while we contemplate with pleasure the increased stability of Your Majesty's Throne, and the internal happiness of Your People, we cannot turn our eyes on the present distracted state of Europe, without the most anxious solicitude; nor behold the vigorous exertions of this Nation under Your Majesty's direction, without praying fervently, as servants of the God of Peace, That He may be pleased to bless with full and speedy success, the

C

energy

energy of Your Majesty's Counsels and Arms, for the restoration of public tranquillity; entertaining full confidence in Your Majesty's wisdom, that no favourable opportunity shall be lost, in procuring the blessing of a safe, honourable, and lasting peace.

That Almighty God may ever have Your Majesty under His peculiar care; that you may reign long, and happily, over a Free and Loyal People; that He may bless our Gracious Queen, and all the Royal Family; that He may bless Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, with all domestic felicity, and preserve them in the paths of Religion and Virtue, and that a Race of Kings descended from Them, may sway the sceptre of these Lands to the latest ages, are the earnest prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most dutiful,

Most faithful, and most obedient Subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this National  
Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, }  
Aley 23. 1795--}

JAMES MEEK, *Moderator.*



## V.

# ADDRESS to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, on the Event of His Marriage.

*May it please Your Royal Highness,*

**W**E, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in the General Assembly, beg leave, respectfully, to approach Your Royal Highness, with our warmest congratulations on Your marriage with an Amiable Princess of the Illustrious House of Brunswick.

Zealously attached to our free and happy Constitution in Church and State, we most cordially rejoice in an event, which, while it brings to Your Highness so great an accession of domestic happiness, affords to the British Empire an additional security for the continuance of the many and important blessings it has so long enjoyed, under the mild and auspicious Government of the august House of Hanover.

That Your Royal Highness, and Your Amiable Consort, may be adorned with all those Virtues which give true dignity and lustre to Your exalted Station; that Divine Providence may bestow upon You a large portion of prosperity and glory, and bless You with a Race of Princes to sway the Sceptre of these Realms, over a free, loyal, and happy people to latest posterity; and that, after a long enjoyment of earthly blessings, You may be received into the Mansions of Eternal Felicity,—are the fervent prayers of,

May it please Your Royal Highness,

Your Royal Highness's most devoted Servants,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH,  
May 23. 1795.

JAMES MEEK, *Moderator.*

VI.

## VI.

**Act enjoining Prayer for Her Royal  
Highness the Princess of Wales.**

*Edinburgh, May 23. 1795. Sess. 3.*

**T**HE GENERAL ASSEMBLY considering, that it hath pleased God to bless this Nation with an addition to the Royal Family, by the happy marriage of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, do therefore enjoin all the Ministers of this Church, That they pray for Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, as well as for His Majesty King George; His Royal Consort the Queen; His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales; and all the Royal Family; and, that Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales be named immediately after the Prince.

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## VII.

**Commission of the General Assembly,  
to certain Ministers and Ruling Elders,  
for discussing affairs referred to them.**

*Edinburgh, May 30. 1795. Sess. 9.*

**T**HE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do nominate, commission and appoint the Reverend Dr JAMES MEEK, Minister at Cambuslang, their Moderator:

And,—From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkwall*, Mr William Anderson at Evie and Rendal, Mr James Watson at South-Ronaldsay, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Youngson, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Cairstone*, Mr Robert Sands at Hoy and Græmsay, Mr James Bremner at Walls and Flota, *Ministers*; Mr Richard Richardson, merchant, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *North Isles*, Mr John Anderson at Stronsay and Eday, Mr James Izat at Westray, *Ministers*; John Grieve, Esq; Commissioner of Excise, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Zetland*, Mr William Jack at North Mavven, Mr John Inches at Nesting, *Ministers*; Professor Andrew Dalziel, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Edinburgh*, Dr William Gloag, Dr John Walker at Collington, Dr Thomas Davidson, Mr William Cameron at Kirk-Newton, Mr James Finlayson, Mr Thomas Mac-knight, South Leith, *Ministers*; Thomas Elder, Esq; of For-neth, Donald Smith, Esq; banker, Edinburgh, Charles Kerr, Esq; His Majesty's printer, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City* of *Edinburgh*, the Right Honourable Sir James Stirling, Baronet, Lord Provost of the City, Convener Thomas Hay:—From the *University* of *Edinburgh*, Principal George Baird:—From the *Presbytery* of *Linlithgow*, Mr Walter Jardine at Bathgate, Mr John Henderson at Queensferry, Mr James Rhind at Whitburn, Mr John Muckerfy at West Calder, *Ministers*; Captain James Taylor, Queensferry, John Meek, Esq; of Campfield, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Queensferry*, Alexander Macnab, Esq; one of the present Magistrates:—From the *Presbytery* of *Biggar*, Mr John Gordon at Dolphington, Mr William Porteous at Kilbucho, Mr William Strachan at Culter, *Ministers*; John Dickson of Culter, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Peebles*, Mr Alexander Kerr at Stobo, Mr James Gardner at Tweedsmuir, *Ministers*; James Montgomery, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Peebles*, Andrew Hamilton, of Spittlehaugh, Esq; From the *Presbytery* of *Dalkeith*, Mr James Brown at Newbattle, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr William Scott at Dalkeith, *Ministers*; the Right Honourable Lord Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Haddington*, Mr James Innes at Yester, Mr Andrew Nisbet at Garvald, Mr George Goldie at Athelstoneford, *Ministers*; John Hamilton, Esq; of Pencaitland, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Haddington*, Charles Brown of Coalston, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Burgh* of *North Berwick*, Sir Hugh Hamilton

of Succoth, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunoon*, Mr Archibald Maclea at Rothsay, Mr Alexander Macfarlane at Kilfinan, *Ministers*; John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Rothsay*, William Macleod Bannatyne, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kintyre*, Mr George Robertson at Campbeltown, Mr William Fraser at Gigha, *Ministers*; Mr Donald Campbell at Southend, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Inverary*, Humpry Trawford Campbell, Esq; younger of Ashnith:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lorn*, Dr Joseph Macintyre at Glenorchie, Mr Francis Stewart at Kilchrenan, *Ministers*; John Campbell, Esq; of Lochend, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Mull*, Mr Dugal Campbell at Kilfinichan, Mr Alexander Campbell at Ardnamurchan, *Ministers*; Allan Macdougall of Hayfield, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunkeld*, Mr William Chalmers at Auchtergaven, Mr Alexander Niven at Dunkeld, Mr Archibald Menzies at Dull, Mr John Brodie at Kinloch, *Ministers*; John Hagart, Esq; Advocate, David Steuart, Esq; merchant in Leith, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Perth*, Mr David Dow at Dron, Mr John Willison at Forgandenny, Mr Anthony Dow at Kilsbindy, Mr Thomas Kennedy at St Madoes, *Ministers*; Mr James Dickson, bookseller, Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Beatson, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Perth*, John Caw, Esq; late Provost of Perth:—From the *Presbytery* of *Stirling*, Mr William Innes at Stirling, Mr Robert Ure junior at Airth, *Ministers*; William Murray, Esq; of Touchadam, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Auchterarder*, Mr John Scott at Muthill, Mr Colin Baxter at Monivaird, Mr Ralph Taylor at Monzie, *Ministers*; Peter Murray, Esq; younger of Auchtertyre, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunblane*, Mr Patrick Graham at Aberfoyle, Mr David Simson at Tulliallan, *Ministers*; Professor William Richardson, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunfermline*, Mr James Reid at Beith, Mr David Balfour at Torryburn, Mr Walter Macalpin at Culroß, *Ministers*; Sir Charles Preston of Valleyfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkaldy*, Mr David Swan at Scoonie, Mr Andrew Grant at Portmoak, Mr Thomas Scott at Balingrie, *Ministers*; Alexander Park, Esq; of Lochore, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Kirkaldy*, Mr Andrew Inglis, merchant in Kirkaldy:—From the *Presbytery* of *Cupar*, Dr Michael Greenlaw at Creich, Dr Andrew Brown at Falkland, Mr John Martin at Strathmiglo, Mr James Keyden at Dunbog, *Ministers*; Mr David



vid Pitcairn in the Mount, Mr John Nivison in Falkland, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of *St Andrew's*, Dr Robert Arnot, Professor of Divinity, Mr John Mair at Cameron, Mr Archibald Gillies at St Monans, Mr Alexander Brodie at Carnbie, *Ministers*; Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Monypenny, Professor John Cook, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *St Andrew's*, The Honourable Henry Erskine, Dean of Faculty:—From the *University* of *St Andrew's*, Principal George Hill:—From the *Burgh* of *Crail*, Mr Thomas Weir, writer in Edinburgh: From the *Presbytery* of *Meikle*, Mr James Stormonth at Airly, Mr James Badenoch at Kingoldrum, Mr Alexander Thomson at Lintathen, *Ministers*; Sir William Ramsay of Banff, Bart. *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Forfar*, Mr James Mitchell at Aberlemno, Mr Thomas Wright at Roscobie, *Ministers*; Mr John Moncreiff, apothecary, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Forfar*, Robert Graham of Fintry, Esq;—From the *Presbytery* of *Dundee*, Mr Alexander Imlach at Murroes, Mr John Anderson at Dundee, Mr William Johnston at Monyfeith, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Pitcairn, insurance-broker in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Aberbrothock*, Mr John Aitken at St Vigean's, Mr William Milligan at Kirkden, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Miln, merchant, Canongate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Brechin*, Mr Andrew Gray at Caraldstone, Mr Alexander Peter at Logie and Pert, Mr Andrew Ferguson at Marytown, *Ministers*; James Wauchope, Esq; younger of Edmonstone, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Fordoun*, Mr John Brymer at Marykirk, Mr James Walker at Dunnotter, Mr James Leslie at Fordoun, *Ministers*; John Burnet, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Aberdeen*, Mr James Shirrefs at Aberdeen, Mr William Wilson at Dyce, Mr George Gordon at Aberdeen, Mr James Fraser at Drumoak, *Ministers*; William Robertson, Esq; Advocate, Procurator for the Church, John Gordon, Esq; of Craig, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kincardine O' Neal*, Mr Robert Farquharson at Logie Coldstone, Mr Joseph Smith at Birse, Mr Alexander Henderson at Echt, *Ministers*; William Macdonald, Esq; of Reneaton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Alford*, Mr Alexander Smith at Keig, Mr Alexander Urquhart at Tough, Mr William Spence at Glenbucket, *Ministers*; James Gordon, Esq; younger of Craig, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Garioch*, Mr Thomas Tait at Meldrum, Mr Alexander

Duff at Monymusk, Mr George Skene Keith at Keith-hall, *Ministers*; William Gordon, Esq; younger of Rothney, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Deer*, Mr John Lundie at Loanmay, Dr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr John Craigie at St Fergus, *Ministers*; Mr John Taylor, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Turriff*, Mr John Miln at Inverkeithing, Mr John Falconer at Fyvie, *Ministers*; Mr Archibald Miln, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Fordyce*, Mr Alexander Milne at Boindie, Mr Alexander Humphry at Fordyce, *Ministers*; Mr George Andrew, writer, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Strathbogie*, Mr John Cooper at Glasf, Mr Alexander Angus at Botriphnie, *Ministers*; Mr Baron Gordon, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Aberlour*, Mr Francis Leslie at Boharm, Mr George Cruikshank at Rothies, *Ministers*; the Honourable Arthur Duff of Orton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Abernethy*, Mr Patrick Grant at Duthill, Mr John Anderson at Kinguillie, *Ministers*; Dr Gregory Grant, physician in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Elgin*, Mr Lewis Gordon at Drainie, Mr James Gillan at Speymouth, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Gordon, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Elgin*, Mr Francis Nicol, preacher of the Gospel:—From the *Presbytery* of *Forres*, Mr William Stephen at Rafford, Mr John Macdonnell at Forres, *Ministers*; George Cumming of Relugas, Esq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Nairn*, Mr Alexander Grant at Calder, Mr John Morrison at Nairn, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Grant, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Inverness*, Alexander Baillie, Esq; of Dochfour:—From the *Presbytery* of *Chanonry*, Mr Robert Arthur at Kirkmichael, Mr James Smith at Avoch, *Ministers*; Convener John Lindsay of Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Tain*, Mr John Urquhart at Fearn, Mr Alexander Macadam at Nigg, *Ministers*; Charles Ross, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dingwall*, Mr Colin Mackenzie at Fodderty, Mr John Downie at Urray, *Ministers*; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Abertarph*, Mr Patrick Grant at Boleiskine, Mr James Grant at Urquhart, *Ministers*; Mr James Grant, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Uist*, Mr John Macleod at Harris, Mr Edmund Macqueen at Barra, *Ministers*; Hector Macdonald Buchanan, Esq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lochcarron*,  
Mr

Mr Roderick Morrison at Kintail, Mr Alexander Downie at Lochalsh, *Ministers*:—From the *Presbytery of Dornoch*, Mr George Macculloch at Loth, Mr George Rannie at Creich, *Ministers*; Robert Bruce Æneas Macleod, Esq; of Cadboll, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Tongue*, Mr John Thomson at Duirness, Mr William Mackenzie at Tongue, *Ministers*; Mr William Maclean, merchant in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Caithness*, Dr John Morrison at Canisbay, Mr William Smith at Bower, *Ministers*; Sir Benjamin Dunbar, Baronet, of Hemprigs, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Wick*, the Right Honourable James Earl of Caithness:—And the General Assembly added thereto Dr Henry Grieve, one of the Ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator; and also added Mr George Rae, of *Canongate*, whose commission had been rejected on account of informality, to BE COMMISSIONERS of this General Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully empowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall

shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year One thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here inserted; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books and pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission, to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise, to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correspondence with the Committee for reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies One thousand seven hundred and twelve, and One thousand

seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Assembly One thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Assembly held in the year One thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission; and such of the members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same: And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlement of vacant churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been some time the practice, but shall allow the same to lie over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th act of the Assembly One thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.

## VIII.

**COMMISSION to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that end.**

*Edinburgh, May 30. Seff. 9.*

**T**HE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr JAMES MEEK, Minister at Cambuslang, their Moderator, all the ministers who are members of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr William Anderson, Mr Robert Sands, Mr John Anderson, Mr John Inches, Principal Baird, Mr John Henderson, Mr John Gordon, Mr James Gardner, Dr Alexander Carlyle, Mr James Innes, Mr Alexander Davidson, Mr Adam Murray, Mr George Tod, Mr Andrew Scott, Mr William Paton, Mr James Duncan, Mr Thomas Robertson, Mr John Morgan, Mr William Little, Mr Gabriel Scott, Mr John Yorsfoun, Dr Bryce Johnston, Mr Robert Gordon, Mr John Steven, Dr Thomas Miller, Mr Michael Tod, Dr John Snodgrafs, Mr Thomas Freebairn, Mr James Finlayson, Dr William Lockhart, Mr John Allan, Mr Archibald Maclea, Mr George Robertson, Dr Joseph Macintyre, Mr Dugal Campbell, Mr William Chalmers, Mr David Dow, Mr William Innes, Mr John Scott, Mr Patrick Graham, Mr James Reid, Mr David Swan, Dr Andrew Brown, Dr Robert Arnot, Principal Hill, Mr James Stormonth, Mr James Mitchell, Mr John Anderson, Mr John Aitken, Mr Alexander Peter, Mr John Brymer, Mr Joseph Smith, Mr Alexander Urquhart, Mr George Skene Keith, Mr John Lundie, Mr John Miln, Mr Alexander Miln, Mr John Cooper, Mr Francis Leslie, Mr Patrick Grant, Mr Lewis Gordon, Mr William Stephen, Mr Alexander Grant, Mr Robert Arthur, Mr John Urquhart, Mr Colin Mackenzie, Mr James Grant, Mr John Macleod, Mr Roderick Morison,

son, Mr George Macculloch, Mr John Thomson, Dr John Morrison, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Youngson, writer, Mr Richard Richardson, Commissioner Greive, Professor Dalzel, Thomas Elder, Esq; Donald Smith, Esq; Charles Ker, Esq; the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Convener Thomas Hay, John Dickson, Esq; James Montgomery, Esq; Andrew Hamilton, Esq; the Lord Advocate, Sir Hugh Hamilton Dalrymple, Matthew Sandilands, Esq; Sir James Pringle, John Macfarlane, Esq; the Earl of Lauderdale, Mr Joseph Norris, Charles Hope, Esq; William Tait, Esq; Mr William Johnston, Alexander Fergusson, Esq; Mr Horatius Cannan, Mr Robert Heron, Mr John Jaffrey, Mr Thomas Smith, Lord Glenlee, George Fergusson, Esq; David Boyle, Esq; John Bannatyne, Esq; James Glaifsford, Esq; Mr James Davidson, the Lord President, Archibald Campbell, Esq; John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; William Macleod Bannatyne, Esq; Allan Macdougall, Esq; John Hagart, Esq; David Steuart, Esq; Bailie James Dickson, Mr Alexander Beatson, Peter Murray, Esq; Lieutenant-Colonel Monypenny, the Dean of Faculty, Mr Thomas Weir, Sir William Ramsay, Mr John Moncrieff, Robert Graham, Esq; Mr Alexander Pitcairn, Mr Thomas Miln, merchant, James Wauchope, Esq; John Burnet, Esq; the Procurator, Mr William Macdonald, Mr William Gordon, Mr John Taylor, Mr Archibald Milne, Mr George Andrew, Mr Baron Gordon, Dr Gregory Grant, Mr Thomas Gordon, Mr George Cumming, Mr Alexander Grant, Convener John Lindsay, Charles Ross, Esq; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, Mr James Grant, Mr Hector Macdonald Buchanan, Robert Bruce Æneas Macleod, Esq; Mr William Maclean, Sir Benjamin Dunbar, the Earl of Caithness, *Ruling Elders*; TO BE A COMMITTEE of this Assembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty for these ends, according to, and in terms of His Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to His Majesty's design, expressed in His warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalence

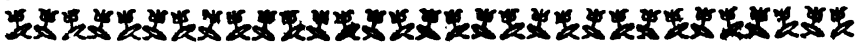
prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation; prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and, in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee, to have a particular regard in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Assemblies: And to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their registers the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, That they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts; and that every Catechist who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that  
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the parishioners or gentlemen of the district shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to the Cashier, a declaration that he has received the particular sum specified; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall in like manner bear, that the Catechist has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no such declaration of the Catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the Cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the Catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty. That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned, who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named, as members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers; and the said Committee are appointed to have their first general meeting at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of the first of the stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly; their second meeting (which is for fixing the annual scheme), upon the second Thursday of July, with power to those members who shall then be present, to adjourn; and their other two general meetings the first lawful days after the stated meetings of the Commission of the General Assembly, in November and March, within the Assembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next

thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the Commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the same, as he shall be directed and ordered by the foresaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of His Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lie on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time the person complained of, and the Presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just account of the matter, against the next meeting. And it is farther appointed, That after the yearly scheme of missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their answer to these letters, at farthest, with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot complete it, they shall name a sub-committee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to

to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And empowered the Committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said Committee, in making up the scheme of missionaries, &c. do not exceed the sum in the grant.



## IX.

Edinburgh, May 30. 1795. *Sess.* 9.

*THE Report of the Committee appointed to class returns to Overtures was called for, given in, and read.—The Assembly ordered the Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers to be retransmitted; with a renewal of the Recommendation to such Presbyteries as have sent no Returns, to send them without further delay.*

### New Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers.

Edinburgh, May 25. 1792. *Sess.* 8.

**T**HE General Assembly having taken under their serious consideration, the great danger to which the interests of Religion and of this Church may be exposed, by licensing any to preach the Gospel, who are not duly qualified for that important trust, do hereby enact and ordain, That in all time coming the following regulations shall be strictly observed :

I. It is hereby enacted, That no Student shall be entered upon the Roll of any Professor of Divinity, unless he shall produce to the said Professor a certificate from the Minister of the parish in which he has his usual residence; or in his absence, or during a vacancy in said parish,

parish, from some neighbouring Minister, bearing, that his character is suitable to his views; together with a diploma of Master of Arts, or certificates from the several Professors of Philosophy, under whom he hath studied, from which it may be clearly ascertained that, in some University or Universities, he hath gone through a full course of Philosophy in some winter-sessions of College preceding that in which the certificates are produced.

II. The General Assembly do likewise hereby ordain, That all Students who have been inrolled by Professors of Divinity, in the manner prescribed by this act, shall continue to prosecute the study of Divinity for the term of six Sessions: Provided always, That if any Student hath given regular attendance in the Divinity Hall during three Sessions, his Course shall be considered as completed in four Sessions; and that if he hath given regular attendance in the Hall during two Sessions, his Course shall be considered as completed in five Sessions. And the Assembly do further ordain, That in each of these cases, Students shall be inrolled by the Professors during the several Sessions of their respective Courses, and deliver in the Divinity Hall, in the manner herein afterwards provided, an Exegetis in Latin, on some controverted Head in Divinity, a Homily in English, an Exercise and Addition, a Lecture on some large portion of Scripture, and a popular Sermon, together with such other Exercises as the Professors shall think proper to prescribe. And the Assembly farther enact and declare, That a Student is entitled to apply to the Professor for his certificates, that he may be proposed for trials, and that the Preliminary steps may be taken by the Presbytery during the currency of the last Session of his Course, as above described; with this limitation, that if the said last Session is to be claimed as a Session of regular attendance, he shall, toward the conclusion thereof, obtain a new certificate of his attendance during its currency, and produce the same to the Presbytery or Synod.

III. Professors of Divinity are required to attend, as much as circumstances may permit, to the conduct of such Students as are under their care, and, as far as they find it practicable, to insist that every Student shall deliver his first discourse some time during his second Session, at the latest, and the remainder of his Discourses at such periods as may enable him to deliver the whole of them

them before the end of January, of the last Session of his Course.

IV. When a Student is proposed to any Presbytery, in order to be taken upon trials, the Presbytery shall be alone, and the motion for that purpose shall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting. In the mean time, the Presbytery shall appoint the Member by whom the Student has been proposed, to lay before the said meeting the certificate or certificates in favour of the Student, that are specified in the third paragraph of the fifth section of this act; to desire him to attend the same; and to inform him, that, previously to the meeting, he ought, as far as circumstances may permit, to wait on such Ministers of the Presbytery as have not formerly had an opportunity of conversing with him in private.

V. When the time appointed for considering the motion is arrived, the Presbytery shall strictly observe the following regulations.

1<sup>st</sup>, The Presbytery shall be alone, while they are employed in discussing the several preliminaries respecting Students who are proposed for trials.

2<sup>d</sup>, They shall require satisfying evidence, that every Student who is proposed for that purpose, has completed the twenty-first year of his age.

3<sup>d</sup>, No Student shall be admitted to trials, unless he produces to the Presbytery, a certificate or certificates from the Professor or Professors of Divinity, under whose tuition he hath studied, bearing, that he hath prosecuted his studies, and delivered his Discourses, in the manner prescribed by this act; and that his conduct, as far as consists with the knowledge of the said Professor, or Professors, has been in every respect suitable to his views in life. And the General Assembly do likewise hereby enact, That the Presbytery shall record at full length the said certificate, or certificates, in their minutes: And it is hereby enacted and declared, That the Student having lodged such certificate, or certificates, shall be entitled to obtain extracts of the same, if demanded.

4<sup>th</sup>, No Presbytery shall receive any Student upon trials, unless they are satisfied that he is of good report; sound in his principles; pious, sober, grave, and prudent, in his behaviour; of a peaceable disposition; and well affected to the happy establishment in this kingdom, both in Church and State. And, that the Presbytery may proceed

ceed with all due caution, in a matter of such peculiar importance, they shall not agree to the motion in behalf of the Student, unless his residence, during the year preceding, has been chiefly within their bounds, or he shall produce sufficient testimonials from the Presbytery, in whose bounds his residence has chiefly been, during that term, bearing, that his character is such as is described in the immediately preceding sentence of this paragraph, and recommending him, in these respects, to the Presbytery before whom the proposal is made, as a proper person to be entered upon trials.

*5th*, The Presbytery shall not agree to the motion in favour of the Student, unless they are satisfied, that he has made a competent degree of proficiency in those several branches of knowledge, which are necessary to enable him to be an useful Preacher of the Gospel. And the General Assembly ordain, that the Presbytery, in order to procure full information in this respect, shall examine the Student, strictly, and privately, on his knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, and of Philosophy and Theology.

*6th*, If after these preliminary steps have been taken, the Presbytery shall be of opinion, that the Student is duly qualified in these several particulars, they shall record this opinion in their minutes, and order their clerk to write letters to the several Presbyteries within the bounds of the Provincial Synod, two kalendar months at least before the meeting of the same, informing them of the Presbytery's intention to take the Student upon Public Trials, and bearing, that the certificate, or certificates in his favour, which are required by this act, have been regularly laid before them. But it is hereby provided, That within the bounds of such Synods as meet only once a-year, a Student may be entitled to have these circular letters written half a-year sooner than would be otherwise competent.

VI. The General Assembly do likewise hereby enact and declare, That, at the request of the Student, it shall be competent to any Presbytery to transfer the receiving of the Public Trials, or any part thereof, certifying to the Presbytery to which the transference is to be made, that the various preliminary steps have been taken according to the directions of this act; and that such parts of the public and private trials as have been already gone through, have been received with approbation.

VII. If a Student hath studied, either in whole or in part, in Protestant Universities which are not within the bounds of this Church, he shall, when he is proposed to any Presbytery for trials, be required to produce satisfying testimonials from the Professors of Divinity in said Universities; and the time which these Professors shall certify to have been employed by him in studying Divinity under their tuition, shall be computed in the same manner as if he had prosecuted his studies in any of the Universities within the bounds of this Church. But it is hereby provided, That no Student, in such circumstances, shall be admitted even to those private trials which are appointed to be taken before the writing of the circular letters, sooner than six kalendar months after his arrival in Scotland.

VIII. The General Assembly ordain, That if a Presbytery propose to take a Student upon public trials, and have, with that view, written the circular letters, as is herein required, public intimation thereof shall be made at some diet of the next meeting of the Provincial Synod, which shall not be the last diet thereof: And the Presbytery clerk is hereby required to transmit to the Synod clerk an extract of the certificate, or certificates, laid before the Presbytery, in favour of the Student, in order that the same may be produced at this diet of the Synod. And it is likewise hereby ordained, That at some subsequent diet of the Synod, particular enquiry shall be made, whether any of the Members of the Court has any objection to offer against the Student being entered upon Public Trials: And that the Synod then taking into consideration the extract produced, and the whole of the case, shall judge of the expediency of allowing the Presbytery to admit the Student on trials: Or if in any case the Presbytery clerk shall fail to transmit the extracts of the certificates above mentioned, the Student may produce to the Synod, by himself or by any Member of the Court, the extract of the same, which by this act he is entitled to obtain.

IX. If the Synod shall allow the Student to be taken upon Public Trials, the Presbytery shall proceed therein with all convenient speed; and the Assembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the Student, and in the order herein mentioned: 1<sup>st</sup>, Catechetic trials on Divinity, Chronology, and Church History; 2<sup>d</sup>, A trial on the Hebrew and Greek languages; 3<sup>d</sup>, An Exegesis in Latin

ceed with all due caution, in a matter of such peculiar importance, they shall not agree to the motion in behalf of the Student, unless his residence, during the year preceding, has been chiefly within their bounds, or he shall produce sufficient testimonials from the Presbytery, in whose bounds his residence has chiefly been, during that term, bearing, that his character is such as is described in the immediately preceding sentence of this paragraph, and recommending him, in these respects, to the Presbytery before whom the proposal is made, as a proper person to be entered upon trials.

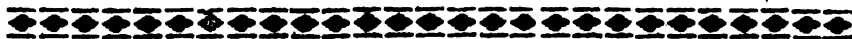
5th, The Presbytery shall not agree to the motion in favour of the Student, unless they are satisfied, that he has made a competent degree of proficiency in those several branches of knowledge, which are necessary to enable him to be an useful Preacher of the Gospel. And the General Assembly ordain, that the Presbytery, in order to procure full information in this respect, shall examine the Student, strictly, and privately, on his knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, and of Philosophy and Theology.

6th, If after these preliminary steps have been taken, the Presbytery shall be of opinion, that the Student is duly qualified in these several particulars, they shall record this opinion in their minutes, and order their clerk to write letters to the several Presbyteries within the bounds of the Provincial Synod, two kalendar months at least before the meeting of the same, informing them of the Presbytery's intention to take the Student upon Public Trials, and bearing, that the certificate, or certificates in his favour, which are required by this act, have been regularly laid before them. But it is hereby provided, That within the bounds of such Synods as meet only once a-year, a Student may be entitled to have these circular letters written half a-year sooner than would be otherwise competent.

VI. The General Assembly do likewise hereby enact and declare, That, at the request of the Student, it shall be competent to any Presbytery to transfer the receiving of the Public Trials, or any part thereof, certifying to the Presbytery to which the transference is to be made, that the various preliminary steps have been taken according to the directions of this act; and that such parts of the public and private trials as have been already gone through, have been received with approbation.



the clerks of each Synod, and Presbytery, within the bounds of this Church, and that the said clerks shall keep the same along with their minutes, and bring it up to each meeting of their respective Courts, for the use of the Members.



## X.

### Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

*Edinburgh, June 1. 1795. Sess. ult.*

**T**HE next GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 19th day of May 1796.

*Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by*

ANDREW DALZEL, *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

Latin on some controverted Head in Divinity; 4th, A Homily in English; 5th, An Exercise and Addition; 6th, A Lecture on some large portion of Scripture; 7th, A popular Sermon; it being understood, that if the Presbytery see cause, they may examine the Student upon the subject of these several Discourses.

X. The Student having gone through the several trials, which are mentioned in the immediately preceding section of this act, the Presbytery are ordained to proceed in the following order:

1st, They shall, deliberately and seriously, take a conjunct view of the whole trials; and if they shall be of opinion, that the Student is not properly qualified to perform the duties incumbent upon a Preacher of the Gospel, they shall by no means grant him a Licence in his present circumstances.

2d, If, upon this review of the trials, the Presbytery are fully satisfied therewith, they shall record this opinion in their minutes.

3d, The Presbytery shall then propose to the Student the questions that are appointed to be put to all who pass Trials by act 10th Assembly 1711, and require him to subscribe the *Formula* which is prescribed by the said act. And the General Assembly strictly prohibit all Presbyteries from licensing any Student to preach the Gospel, who shall not give explicit and satisfying answers to these questions, and subscribe the said *Formula*.

4th, The Presbytery shall order the act of Assembly 1759, against Simoniackal practices, to be read to the Student in their presence.

Lastly, The Presbytery shall appoint their Moderator to licence the Student to preach the Gospel, and order their clerk to furnish him with an extract of his licence.

XI. For the better observance of this act, the General Assembly ordain, 1st, That it shall be printed among their other printed acts; 2d, That it shall be printed by itself, in some convenient form; 3d, That a copy of this separate edition shall be transmitted to each Professor of Divinity in the Universities of Scotland; and that the said Professors shall read the same in their respective Halls, once at least during every Session, and at such times as they have reason to expect the attendance of the greatest number of Students for that Session; and, lastly, That a copy of the same edition shall likewise be transmitted to the

# ABRIDGMENT

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the CHURCH of SCOTLAND, held at Edinburgh in the year 1795, which are not printed at full length.

*Thursday, May 21. 1795. Sess. 1.*

**A**FTER Sermon by the Reverend Dr ROBERT ARNOT, Professor of Divinity in St Mary's College, St Andrew's, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders convened in the Assembly-house in the usual manner: And, after prayer by the said Dr Robert Arnot, the Reverend Dr JAMES MEEK, Minister at Cambuslang, being unanimously chosen Moderator, he, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The KING's Commission to the Right Honourable DAVID Earl of See Printed Acts, LEVEN, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person, read, and ordered to be recorded. No. I.

The KING's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, read, and ordered to be recorded. No. II.

The Commissioner's Speech at the opening of the Assembly, and the Moderator's speech in return thereto.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

A Dutiful and Loyal Address to his Majesty, on the nuptials of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, with Her Most Serene Highness Caroline Princess of Brunswick:

Also an Humble and Congratulatory Address to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on the event of his Marriage; agreed to, and a Committee appointed to prepare both Addresses.

The Committee appointed by last Assembly on Chapels of Ease, renewed.

A Committee named for revising the Commissions to the members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof, naming Ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, and receiving Lists of Probationers in the several Presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

A Committee for overtures named.

A Committee for bills, references and appeals, named.

Adjournment.

*Friday, May 22. 1795. Sess. 2.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

A diet spent in Prayer.

Act

## ABRIDGMENT, 1795.

Act VII. of the Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of the business of the Assembly, read, and the observation thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the Commissioner.

The Committee for revising Commissions appointed to meet.

The Committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Saturday, May 23. 1795. *Seff.* 3.

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

A Letter from Mr George Cairncross Agent for the Church, was read ; and ordered to be taken into consideration on Monday.

A Committee named to revise the accounts of the Procurator and agent for the Church, and other public accounts, consider the state of the Church's public money, and prepare overtures about the same.

See Printed Acts, No. III. The draught of the Answer to the King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, being brought in and approved, his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertook to transmit the same to His Majesty.

No. IV. The draught of a Dutiful and Loyal Address to His Majesty, on the nuptials of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales being brought in and approved, his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, likewise undertook to transmit the same to his Majesty.

No. V. The draught of an Humble and Congratulatory Address to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on the event of his marriage, was brought in and approved ; and a Committee named to consider of the proper mode of transmitting this address to His Royal Highness.

No. VI. The Assembly enjoin all the Ministers of this Church, to pray for Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.

Report of the Committee for overtures given in and read.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Lochcarron, " That the substitution to said Commission is defective, " in respect that it is totally different from the form." The objection sustained, and the Commissioner's name ordained to be expunged from the roll.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Dalkeith, " That the extract of the election is not subscribed." After long reasoning a motion was made, and seconded, That though the extract of the Commission be not signed, the attestation thereof is signed both by the moderator and clerk, and therefore that the Commission shall be sustained : And the question was put, *Sustain*, or *Reject* the Commission : and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *Sustain*. The Assembly therefore repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the Burgh of Peebles, " That there are not ten free days betwixt the resolution to " elect,

## ABRIDGMENT, 1795.

"elect, and the day of election, the resolution being on the  
"23d of March, and the election on the 2d April." The objection repelled, and the Commission sustained.

The Roll of Causes transmitted by the Committee for Bills called for, produced, and read.

Agreed to consider on Monday next the Petition of Mr Smith<sup>a</sup> of Cumbertrees; and also the reference from the Presbytery of Edinburgh respecting Hairdressers: and to take up the cause of Mr Gillanders on Wednesday next.

A Committee named to revise the Actings and Proceedings of the Commission of the last General Assembly.

A Committee named to revise the Actings and Proceedings of the Committee appointed by last Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty for reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

The Committee for Overtures appointed to meet this evening, and empowered to receive from the several Members any instructions given to them by the respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures thereon to the Assembly, and to receive and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and Superstition, and prepare Overtures for preventing and suppressing thereof.

The Committee for Bills appointed to meet.

The Lord High Commissioner having undertaken to transmit the Address to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and the Assembly having thankfully accepted of his Grace's offer, the appointment of the Committee, formerly named at this diet to consider of that matter being thereby rendered unnecessary, was recalled.

Adjournment.

*Monday, May 25. 1795. Sess. 4.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

The Assembly, in pursuance of their resolution of Saturday last, proceeded to the consideration of Mr Cairncross's letter; and the same being again read, the Assembly unanimously accepted of Mr Cairncross's resignation of the office of Agent for the Church. It was then moved, and agreed to, That the Assembly shall immediately proceed to elect a successor to Mr George Cairncross in the said office of Agent for the Church.

And

Mr William Murray *junior*, writer in Edinburgh, being proposed as a candidate well qualified for discharging the duties of that office, was by the Assembly unanimously appointed Agent for the Church in place of the said Mr Cairncross.

The Report of the Committee on Chapels of Ease given in, and read, and ordered to lie on the table till Thursday.

Report of the Committee for Bills called for, produced, and read.  
Synod Books called for.

## ABRIDGMENT, 1795.

The Assembly proceeded to consider the Appeal of Mr Thomas Smith, Minister of Cumbertrees ; but as the whole papers had not been regularly transmitted, the consideration of this affair was deferred till the whole papers be regularly transmitted through the Committee of Bills.

A Committee appointed to lay the reference from the Presbytery of Edinburgh respecting the Barbers and Hair-dressers before the Crown Lawyers, and to request their opinion, along with the Procurator for the Church, with regard to the most prudent method of redressing the evil complained of ; and the Committee to report on Friday next.

Agreed to hear the cause of Mr Patrick Moir to-morrow.

The Committees for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

*Tuesday, May 26. 1795. Sess. 5.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

Report of the Committee for Bills called for, given in, and read. The Petition and Appeal of Mr Thomas Smith, Minister of Cumbertrees, heard : The Assembly unanimously affirmed the sentence of the Synod of Dumfries, dismissing this cause.

An appeal at the instance of Mr Patrick Moir, Student in Divinity, from a sentence of the Synod of Perth and Stirling, heard. After reasoning, a motion was made and seconded, That in respect the final result of the investigation ordered by the Synod of Perth and Stirling in October 1793, did not produce any legal proof of the facts and circumstances connected with the Report of the Presbytery of Auchterarder on the 16th of October 1793 : The General Assembly do therefore remit to the Synod to judge at their meeting in October next, whether they will authorise the Presbytery of Auchterarder to take Mr Moir upon trials, as if no such charges had been exhibited against him : And another motion was made and seconded, That the General Assembly shall affirm the sentence of the Synod of Perth and Stirling ; and find, that, *in hoc statu*, the appellant's behaviour has not been such as to entitle him to be taken upon trials, reserving to the appellant, upon any future occasion, again to apply to be taken upon trials, when by his exemplary behaviour he shall satisfy the Presbytery of Auchterarder of his being properly qualified for the sacred character of a probationer of this Church : The Assembly agreed to the following state of the vote, *Remit* or *Affirm* ; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *Remit*. Therefore the Assembly remitted to the Synod, agreeable to the first motion.

Adjournment.

*Wednesday,*

## ABRIDGMENT, 1795.

*Wednesday, May 21. 1795. Sess. 6.*

*Sederunt.*

A new Commission produced.

An appeal at the instance of Mr. John Gillanders, minister of Fern, in the Presbytery of Brechin, from a sentence of the Synod of Angus and Mearns, heard. The Assembly unanimously reversed the sentence of the Synod, finding *male appellatum* on the part of Mr Gillanders; and remitted to the Synod, at their next ordinary meeting, to judge on the merits of the sentence or deliverance of the Presbytery of Brechin appealed from.

Committees appointed to meet.

Upon a motion, the Committees for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

*Thursday, May 28. 1795. Sess. 7.*

*Sederunt.*

A new Commission produced.

A Committee named to revise the Synod Book of Galloway.

Report of the Committee for Overtures called for, given in, and read.

The Overture by Mr Skene Keith was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

The Report of the Sub-Committee for classing returns to Overtures, read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Report of the Committee for Bills called for, given in, and read.

The public accounts produced, and ordered to lie on the table.

The Overture respecting Chapels of Ease, with alterations, recommended and the Committee was appointed to report to next Assembly. Sir Henry Moncreiff, Convener.

A Committee appointed to collect the Reports of Presbyteries respecting the examination of Parochial schools.

Adjournment.

*Friday, May 29. 1795. Sess. 8.*

*Sederunt.*

Report of the Committee on the reference respecting Hair-dressers ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow.

The Report of the Trustees of the fund established by Act of Parliament, for a provision to Ministers Widows, &c. containing an account of their proceedings since last General Assembly, and a state of the fund under their management, given in, and ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow: And, upon a motion, the

## ABRIDGMENT, 1795.

- the thanks of the House were given from the chair to Sir Henry Moncreiff-Wellwood, for his fidelity, attention and prudence in the management of the fund.
- Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him, and his cautioners, of the sum of L. 514 : 12 : 5 $\frac{6}{12}$  Sterling disbursed by him, and appointing, that he take credit in his next account for the sum of L. 14 : 12 : 5 $\frac{6}{12}$  Sterling, being the balance due to him.
- Act approving of the account of Dr William Gloag, sub-clerk of Assembly, and exonerating and discharging him of the sum of L. 42, 12 s. 7 d. Sterling, disbursed by him, and appointing that he take credit in his next account for the sum of L. 5 : 2 : 7 Sterling, being the balance due to him.
- Act approving of the account of Mr James Dickson, Printer for the Church, and ordering payment of the sum of L. 16, 17 s. 8 d. Sterling, being the amount thereof.
- Act approving of the account of stationary articles furnished to the clerks by Mr Elphinston Balfour, and ordering payment of the sum of L. 10 : 15 : 9 Sterling, being the amount thereof.
- The Report of the Committee on the public funds of the Church, and new applications, given in and read, and unanimously approved of.
- The Procurator and Agent for the Church appointed to take such steps as shall appear to them necessary, at the expence of the Church, for bringing to a final decision a question of very great importance to the clergy of this Church, depending before the Court of Teinds, with respect to the powers of the Court, to modify victual-stipend to a minister when the teinds were valued in money.
- The Procurator empowered to take such measures as he shall judge proper for settling the dispute respecting the payment of L. 20 of expences awarded to the defenders in the process of suppression and annexation of the parishes of Contin and Fodderty, and which was conducted on the part of the defenders at the public expence.
- The accounts of the agent for the Church for the future appointed to be annually attested by the Procurator, before they are laid before the Committee on public accounts; and the Procurator and Agent appointed to lay before the Committee on public accounts, yearly, a state of the several processes carried on at the public expence.
- Upon the petition of Mr James Dickson, printer for the Church, the Assembly renewed the grant in favour of Mr Dickson, of the sole right of printing and publishing the Translations and Paraphrases of Holy Scripture, for fourteen years from the termination of their former grant.
- A Committee appointed to consider the Overture by Mr Skene Keith, anent the method of carrying on processes against clergymen, when private parties do not come forward to libel them; and to report to next Assembly. Mr Skene Keith appointed Convener of the Committee.

The



## ABRIDGMENT, 1795.

The Committee on Chapels of Ease appointed to meet on Tuesday next.

Adjournment.

Saturday, May 30. 1795. Sess. 9.

*Sederunt.*

The Report of the visitors of the Commission record called for; the Commission's conduct approved of; thanks given to the moderator of the Commission, and their book ordered to be attested.

The Report of the Committee for naming members of the Commission of this Assembly, and preparing instructions to them, given in, and approved of. The Assembly added thereto Dr Henry Grieve; one of the ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator; and also added Mr George Rae of Canongate, whose commission had been rejected on account of informality. See Printed Act, No. VII.

The Report of the visitors of the Royal Bounty record given in, and read; the conduct of the managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, No. VIII. with a commission and instructions to them.

The Synod Book of Galloway ordered to be attested.

The Report of the Trustees of the fund established by act of Parliament for a provision to Ministers Widows, &c. again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register kept for that purpose.

The Report of the Committee appointed to class returns to Over- tures was called for, given in, and read. The Assembly ordered the Overture respecting the licensing of Probationers to be re-transmitted. No. IX.

And it appearing to the Assembly, that the object of the Overture and interim Act concerning the Annexation and Suppression of Parishes is already attained by a law of the Church contained in Act V. Assembly 1740, the Assembly judge it unnecessary to retransmit the above mentioned interim Act and Overture, but recommend it to Presbyteries to pay a strict attention to the said act V. Assembly 1740.

The Committee on the Enzie fund renewed with the former powers. The names of the Members of the Committee are: The Moderator, Dr Hardy, Dr Hunter, Mr William Simpson, Mr Greenfield, Dr John Kemp, Sir Henry Moncreiff, Mr Moodie, *Ministers*; the Procurator, Mr Thomas Smith, writer, Mr George Andrew, writer, Mr Solicitor-General, Mr James Gordon younger of Craig, and Mr William Gordon younger of Rothny, *Ruling Elders*.

Report of the Committee appointed to class returns from Presbyteries anent the Act and Resolution of last Assembly respecting the religious Education of Youth, was given in, and read. The

ABRIDGMENT, 1795.

Assembly renew their injunction to the several Presbyteries of this Church, especially those who have yet sent no returns on this subject, to pay particular attention to the Act and Resolution of last Assembly respecting the religious Education of Youth, and to report their diligence, on the back of their Commissions, to next Assembly.

The Report of the Committee appointed to consult the Crown Lawyers, with the Procurator, on the reference of the Presbytery of Edinburgh anent the Barbers and Hair-dressers was again called for, and given in, containing the written Opinion of the Crown Lawyers and Procurator given on this subject, at the request of the Assembly; which Opinion was read, and of which the tenor follows: "We are of opinion that the facts stated in the application to the Presbytery of Edinburgh from the Barbers and Hair-dressers do not amount to profanation of the Sabbath day, according to the description of that offence contained in the act 1661, c. 18. which is more precise and particular than any of the other statutes upon the subject. If therefore the practice complained of shall appear to require any correction or amendment, we apprehend this can only be done by religious Admonition and Instruction; but that there is no proper foundation for a prosecution before any of the courts of law. (Signed) R. DUNDAS. ROBERT BLAIR. WM. ROBERTSON." The General Assembly having taken into their consideration this unanimous Opinion of the Crown Lawyers, with the Procurator, unanimously agreed to direct the Clerk of the Church, to transmit to the Presbytery of Edinburgh a copy of said Opinion, and enjoin the Presbytery to employ every method of religious Admonition, Instruction, and Discipline, which appears to them expedient in order to preserve upon the minds of the people, within their bounds, a due veneration for the Sabbath; and if there shall be laid before the Presbytery of Edinburgh information of any such profanation of the Sabbath within their bounds, as appears to them to fall under the description of that offence contained in act 1661, c. 18. the General Assembly instruct the Presbytery to consult the Procurator of the Church with regard to the most prudent and effectual method of exercising the power of enforcing the execution of the statutes with respect to the observance of the Sabbath, which is lodged with the Judicatories of this Church. And the Assembly instruct the Procurator to watch the introduction into Parliament of any bill respecting the due Observation of the Lord's Day, to correspond with the Introducer of such bill, and to transmit to him a copy of the Admonition and Information on that subject published by authority of last Assembly, and to request his particular attention to the state of Scotland respecting that subject.

On a motion the Committee of Bills appointed to meet.  
Adjournment.

*Monday,*

ABRIDGMENT, 1795.

Monday, June 1. 1795. *Seff. ult.*

*Sederunt.*

Report of the Committee for bills called for, given in, and read.

A Committee appointed to consider the petition for the Ministers of Tongue, Durness, and Edrachilles, and to take such methods as shall appear to them best calculated for rendering the funds from which the stipends of these Ministers arise most productive, to report to next Assembly; and Mr James Finlayson appointed Convener.

The account of Mr George Cairncross, late Agent for the Church, again called for, with the report of the Committee thereupon; which report was read, and unanimously approved of.

List of Probationers produced; their names read out, and ordered to be recorded.

The Committee on the Orkney grievances renewed, and the Committee authorised to receive any farther information, which may be communicated from the Synod or Presbyteries of Orkney on the subject, and to report to next Assembly.

A Committee named to revise the minutes of the Assembly's proceedings at this and all other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of the Assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.

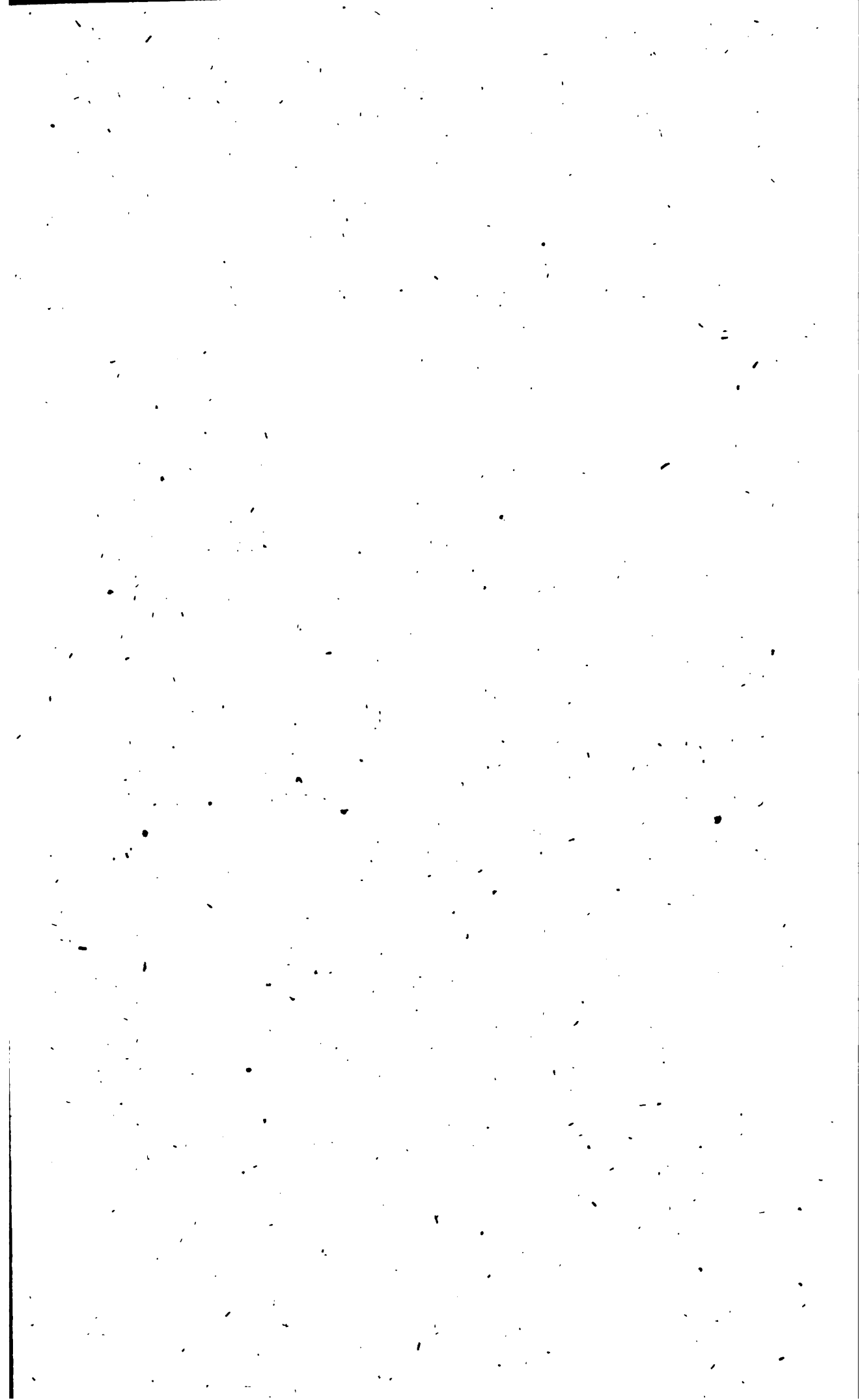
The Moderator's speech to the Assembly, and to his Grace the Commissioner.

The Lord High Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

Act appointing next diet of Assembly.

The Assembly concluded with prayer, singing of Psalms, and pronouncing the Blessing.

See Printed Acts,  
No. XI.



THE PRINCIPAL  
A C T S  
OF THE  
General Assembly  
OF THE  
C H U R C H  
OF  
S C O T L A N D,

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, THE 19th DAY OF MAY 1796.

COLLECTED AND EXTRACTED FROM THE RECORDS BY THE CLERK THEREOF.



EDINBURGH:  
PRINTED BY JAMES DICKSON, PRINTER TO THE  
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

M.DCC.XCVI.





THE PRINCIPAL  
A C T S  
OF THE  
General Assembly  
OF THE  
CHURCH of SCOTLAND,

Begun at EDINBURGH, the 19th day of MAY 1796,  
and concluded the 30th day of the said Month and  
Year.

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I.

The KING's Commission to DAVID Earl  
of LEVEN produced, and ordered to  
be recorded.

*Edinburgh, May 19. 1796.*

**T**HE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National  
CHURCH being convened and constituted,  
there was produced to them, by the Right  
Honourable DAVID EARL of LEVEN, the  
KING's Commission, sealed with the seal ap-  
pointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in  
*Scotland*, in place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making  
and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner  
and

and Representative in this Assembly; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Assembly;—the tenor whereof follows:

**G**EORGIUS, *Dei gratia, Magnæ Britanniae, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor:* Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentēs literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem Nos considerantes, quod Generalis Ecclesiæ Scotiæ Conventus in decimum nonum diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; Nosque abundè cupidi, et necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem ecclesiæ generalis conventus die statuto debitè observetur, atque rebus magni momenti Nos aliò vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; Nosque abundè satisfacti de sufficientia et fidelitate fidelissimi et prædilectissimi Nostri consanguinei Davidis Comitis de Leven et Melville, quod ad summum munus Nostri supremi Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum ritè exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus: Noveritis igitur, Nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, tenoreque præsentium, nominare, constituere, et ordinare, memoratum fidelissimum et prædilectissimum Nostrum consanguineum Davidem Comitem de Leven et Melville, supremum Nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram Nostram Personam et auctoritatem regalem repræsentandi, nec non presentiam Nostram supplendi, et locum Nostrum in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario Nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plenè adeoque liberè in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius in eodem summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si Nos ipsi personaliter præsentas facere potuerimus. Quæque omnià et singula quæ dictus David Comes de Leven et Melville, in hac Nostra Commissione prosequenda legitime fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, Nos firmiter approbamus et ratificamus. Insuper omnibus et singulis dicti conventus et ecclesiæ pastoribus et presbyteris, cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britanniae Scotiam vocatam, subditis Nostreis, cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum Davidem Comitem de Leven et Melville, tanquam supremum Nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum, reveantur, agnoscant et audient, stricte mandamus et præcipimus: Atque hanc Nostram Commissionem à dicto decimo nono die Maii, proximi incipere, et deinceps durante subsequente



*sequente sessione dicti generalis conventus in vigore continuare, declaramus, vel usque dum à Nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, presentibus sigillum Nostrium per Unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotiâ vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus. Apud aulam Nostram apud St James's, vigesimo quinto mensis Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo et nonagesimo sexto, Regnique Nostri anno trigesimo sexto.*

*Per signaturam manu S. D. N. Regis suprascriptam.*



## II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the  
General Assembly, presented to them  
by his Majesty's Commissioner.

**GEORGE R.**

**R**IGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well.—Impressed with a just sense of the important benefits, which through the blessing of Divine Providence have resulted, during so long a course of years, from the meeting of your Venerable Body, it is with peculiar satisfaction that We again impart to you the sanction of Our Royal Authority, and assure you of Our determination to maintain the Church of Scotland, as by law established, in the full and free enjoyment of all its rights and privileges. We have again thought fit to constitute and appoint Our Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousin, DAVID Earl of LEVEN and MELVILLE, to represent Our Royal Person in this Assembly, being well satisfied with his upright and faithful conduct in the execution of that important trust, and not doubting but he must continue to be acceptable to You, from the affection to the Church of Scotland, and the zeal for the interests of Religion, which he has manifested on so many former occasions. The subjects of your deliberation are awful and important, and embrace the dearest interest of Our Subjects. The proofs

**B**

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you have uniformly given of your wisdom and discretion, leave Us no room to doubt of your zealous and faithful discharge of the trusts reposed in you, Recommending you to the Divine Protection, We bid you heartily farewell.—Given at Our Court at St James's, the 10th day of May 1796, in the thirty-sixth year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

P O R T L A N D.

Addressed thus:—*To the Right Reverend the Moderator, Ministers and Elders, of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*



### III.

## The General Assembly's Answer to the KING's most gracious Letter.

*May it please your Majesty,*

**T**HE gracious letter with which Your Majesty has been pleased to honour this meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was received with profound respect and gratitude.

The good opinion which Your Majesty condescends to express of the benefits which through Divine Providence have resulted from this Supreme Ecclesiastical Court, the renewal of the sanction of Your Royal Authority, and the assurances of Your Majesty's determination to maintain our Church in the full and free enjoyment of all its rights and privileges, cannot fail to animate us in the discharge of our duty, and to confirm our loyalty and affection to Your Majesty's Person and Government.

We return our humble thanks for the confidence which Your Majesty is pleased to repose in us, by entrusting to us Your Royal Bounty, for the propagation of Christian Knowledge in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland; and we shall carefully endeavour to distribute it in such a manner as may tend most effectually to accomplish this generous and pious design.

We

We regard it as a pléde of Your Majesty's favour, that Your Royal Person is again represented in our Assembly by the Earl of Leven and Melville,—a Nobleman who is at all times most acceptable to us, not only from the great affection to the Church of Scotland, and zeal for the interests of Religion, which he has manifested on so many former occasions, but also from his very exemplary conduct in private life.

We shall be studious to cherish among the people with whom we are connected, a spirit of dutiful and affectionate allegiance to a Sovereign, who, deeply impressed with a sense of the awful and important nature of Religion, shews an attention so paternal to the dearest interests of his subjects; and it will afford us the utmost satisfaction, if, by a zealous and faithful discharge of the great trusts reposed in us, we shall be so happy as to confirm the favourable sentiments, with regard to our Church, which Your Majesty has been pleased so graciously to express.

That Almighty God, the Father of our Lord JESUS CHRIST; may protect Your Person and prosper Your Government; that He may bless the QUEEN, the PRINCE and the PRINCESS of WALES, and all the Royal Family; and that, after a long and happy reign upon earth, You may rise to a glorious immortality in heaven,—are the earnest Prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient,

And most loyal Subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

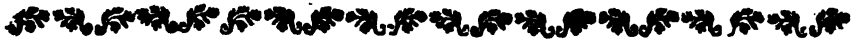
Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH,  
May 21. 1796.

WM. GREENFIELD, Moderator.



## IV.

## ADDRESS on His Majesty's late Preservation.

*May it please Your Majesty,*

**WE**, Your Majesty's most loyal, dutiful, and affectionate subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in the General Assembly of this National Church, beg leave to take this earliest opportunity which our annual meeting affords us, of presenting our most sincere and heartfelt congratulations, upon Your Majesty's late providential deliverance from the attack made by wicked and daring assassins; an attack the more peculiarly disgraceful to the times in which we live, in having been made upon Your sacred Person, when in the discharge of one of the most important duties intrusted to Your Majesty by the constitution. Impressed as we have ever been with the strongest and most unalterable sentiments of respect and attachment to Your Majesty's Person and Government, we have seen with the deepest concern and astonishment the views of the seditious and disaffected, manifestly displayed in an act of such daring atrocity.

We have, however, observed, with the highest satisfaction, that the several branches of the Legislature, the constitutional guardians of the public interest, have concurred in the adoption of such laws, as we trust will, under the influence of Divine Providence, have the effect of ensuring the safety of Your Majesty's Person, repressing the machinations of seditious and disaffected men, and of securing the true liberty, happiness and tranquillity, of these kingdoms.

That the manifold advantages which we and our forefathers have long enjoyed under that form of Government, administered by Your Majesty and the other Princes of Your illustrious House, may be transmitted  
entire

entire to the latest posterity, and that Your Majesty may long continue to reign over a free, loyal, and affectionate people, are the most earnest prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most dutiful,

Most faithful, and most obedient Subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this National  
Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, }  
May 21. 1796. }

WM. GREENFIELD, *Moderator.*

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V.

ADDRESS to His Majesty on the Birth  
of a PRINCESS, the Daughter of the  
PRINCE and PRINCESS of WALES.

*May it please Your Majesty,*

**W**E Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met together in the General Assembly, take this first opportunity of congratulating Your Majesty on the late increase of the Royal Family, by the birth of a Princess, the daughter of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales.

C

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*The ACTS of the*

As our sentiments of duty and affection to Your Majesty, lead us to take part in whatever may add to Your domestic felicity, we cannot fail to rejoice in an event which gives farther security to the permanent continuance of the Crown of these realms, in Your Majesty's illustrious Family, under whose mild and equitable Government, our happy constitution has been so much strengthened and confirmed, and our national prosperity so greatly increased.

That Almighty God may bless and long preserve Your Majesty, to reign over a happy and affectionate people: That he may bless your Royal Consort the QUEEN, their Royal Highnesses the PRINCE and PRINCESS OF WALES, PRINCESS CAROLINE, and all the Royal Family, and that after reigning long with increasing felicity, You may at last be rewarded with that crown of glory that fadeth not away, through the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ, is the earnest prayer of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most dutiful,

Most faithful and most obedient Subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this National  
Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, }  
May 21. 1796. }

WM. GREENFIELD, *Moderator.*



## VI.

Regulations and Overture respecting  
the Erection of Chapels of Ease.

*Edinburgh, May 26. 1796. Sess. 7.*

**T**HE General Assembly, judging it expedient, that no Chapel of Ease should be erected without the knowledge and approbation of the General Assembly, unanimously did, and hereby do ordain, That, in future, if any petition shall be laid before any Presbytery of this Church, for the erection of a Chapel of Ease, the said Presbytery shall strictly observe the following regulations:

“ That, in future, when a petition shall be laid before any Presbytery of this Church, for the Erection of a Chapel of Ease, it shall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting; and at that meeting, unless it shall appear to the Presbytery, from the circumstances in which the petition is offered, that the Erection of the said Chapel of Ease is unnecessary and inexpedient, they shall cite the minister and Kirk-Session of the Parish, within which the Chapel is intended; and shall summon, by edictal citation, the Heritors of the Parish, and if there is a Burgh in the Parish, the Magistrates of that Burgh, to attend the next Meeting of Presbytery, and to appear for their interest, in the subject of the Petition, if they shall see cause: —That such Presbytery, after having heard the parties, shall sufficiently ascertain the circumstances on which the Petition is founded;—the facts stated as reasons for the necessity or expediency of the Chapel intended;—the general plan of the Chapel itself;—the estimate of the expence to be incurred in completing it;—the scheme laid down for discharging the debts, which it may be necessary to contract;—the plan on which it is proposed to dispose of the collections

“ collections to be made at the Chapel ;—the names  
 “ and designations of the persons in whom the pro-  
 “ perty is to be vested ;—the mode proposed for the  
 “ election of the Minister ;—the stipend to be pro-  
 “ vided to him ;—and the security offered for the re-  
 “ gular payment of the stipend :—That such Presby-  
 “ tery shall thereafter report the whole above-men-  
 “ tioned circumstances of the case, from their minutes,  
 “ to the next Meeting of the General Assembly ; and  
 “ shall not pronounce any final judgment on the petition,  
 “ till they shall have received the special directions of  
 “ the Assembly thereon ; and that it shall be competent  
 “ for the petitioners, and for all parties having inte-  
 “ rest, to be heard on the subject at the bar of the As-  
 “ sembly.” —And at the same time the Assembly  
 transmit to the Presbyteries of this Church the said  
 Regulations, as an OVERTURE on which they are re-  
 quired to send up their opinions to the next Assembly.  
 And the General Assembly ordain that separate copies  
 of this Order and Overture be printed, and transmitted  
 to the different Presbyteries.



## VII.

COMMISSION of the General Assembly,  
 to certain Ministers and Ruling Elders,  
 for discussing affairs referred to them.

*Edinburgh, May 28. 1796. Sess. 9.*

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do nomi-  
 nate, commission and appoint, the Reverend Dr  
 WILLIAM GREENFIELD, one of the Ministers of the  
 City, and Professor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres in the  
 University of Edinburgh, their Moderator : And,—  
 From the *Presbytery of Dornock*, Mr Walter Ross at  
 Clyne,



Clyne, Mr Alexander Sage at Kildonan, *Ministers*; Captain Robert Bruce Æneas Macleod of Cadboll, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Tongue, Mr John Thomson at Diurness, Mr William Mackenzie at Tongue, *Ministers*; Mr William Maclean, merchant in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Caithness, Mr William Sutherland at Wick, Mr Patrick Nicolson at Thurso, *Ministers*; Sir John Sinclair of Ulster, Baronet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of Wick, Mr James Horne, writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery* of Kirkwall, Mr William Anderson at Evie, Mr James Watson at South-Ronaldsay, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Youngson, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of Kirkwall, Malcolm Laing, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of Cairstone, Mr James Bremner at Walls, Mr John Malcolm at Firth, *Ministers*; Mr Richard Richardson, merchant in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of North Isles, Mr John Anderson at Stronsay and Eday, Mr Walter Trail at Lady-Parish, *Ministers*; John Grieve, Esq; one of the Commissioners of Excise, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Zetland, Mr James Sands at Tingwall, Mr David Thomson at Walls, *Ministers*; Professor Andrew Dalziel, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Edinburgh, Dr John Erskine, Edinburgh, Dr David Johnston at North Leith, Mr James Robertson at Ratho, Mr William Moodie, Edinburgh, Mr Robert Dickson, South Leith, Mr Archibald Bonnar at Cramond, *Ministers*; Lord Meadowbank, Bailie George Spankie, William Simpson, Esq; cashier to the Royal Bank, *Ruling Elders*:—From the City of Edinburgh, The Right Honourable Sir James Stirling, Baronet, Lord Provost of the City, Mr Thomas Hay, Convener of the Trades:—From the *Presbytery* of Linlithgow, Mr Hugh Meiklejohn at Abercorn, Mr Robert Rennie at Boness, Mr John Sommers at Mid-Calder, Mr John Bell at Carriden, *Ministers*; Mr James Taylor, shipmaster, John Meek of Campfield, Esq; *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of Linlithgow, Robert Blair, Esq; of Avenhall, His Majesty's Solicitor General for Scotland:—From the *Burgh* of Queensferry, James Hopkirk, Esq; merchant in Glasgow:—From the *Presbytery* of Biggar, Mr Bernard Halden at Glenholm, Mr John Ritchie at Dunfyre, Mr Robert Anderson at Symington, *Ministers*; John Dickson of Culter, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery*

*bytery of Peebles*, Mr William Welsh at Drummelzier, Mr William Marshall at Manner, *Ministers*; James Montgomery, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Dalkeith*, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr Thomas Maccourty at Pennycuick, Mr Leslie Moodie at Newton, *Ministers*; The Right Honourable Lord Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Haddington*, Mr Hugh Cunyngham at Tranent, Mr George Hamilton at Gladsmuir, Mr George Murray at North Berwick, *Ministers*; The Most Honourable George Marquis of Tweeddale, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Haddington*, Mr William Cunningham, merchant in Haddington:—From the *Burgh of North Berwick*, Sir Hew Hamilton Dalrymple, Bart.:—From the *Presbytery of Dunbar*, Dr Patrick Carfrae at Dunbar, Mr James Williamson at Whitekirk, *Ministers*; John Anderson, Esq; of Windygoul, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Dunfermline*, Mr Selby Ord at Longformacus, Mr Alexander Girvan at Langton, *Ministers*; Mathew Sandilands, Esq; clerk to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Chirnside*, Mr James Landells at Coldingham, Mr Robert Scott at Coldstream, *Ministers*; George Buchan, Esq; of Kello, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Kelso*, Mr Andrew Bell at Roxburgh, Mr William Blackie at Yetholm, *Ministers*; Sir James Pringle of Stichell, Baronet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Jedburgh*, Mr William Scott at Southdean, Mr John Hunter at Oxnam, Mr James Rutherford at Hounam, *Ministers*; Captain John Rutherford of Mosburnford, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Lauder*, Mr Laurence Johnston at Earlston, Mr James Baird at Legerwood, *Ministers*; Colonel John Pringle of Georgefield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Lauder*, the Right Honourable James Earl of Lauderdale:—From the *Presbytery of Selkirk*, Mr William Campbell at Lilliesleaf, Mr Charles Paton at Ettrick, *Ministers*; Mark Pringle, Esq; of Clifton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Selkirk*, Alexander Cunningham, Esq; younger of Hyndhope:—From the *Presbytery of Annan*, Mr James Yorstoun at Hoddam, Mr Thomas Smith at Cumbertrees, *Ministers*; Joseph Norris of Newfield, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Annan*, Charles Hope, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery of Langholm*, Mr John Russell at Canoby, Mr William Brown at Eskdalemuir, *Ministers*;

*nisters*; Mr James Robertson, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lochmaben*, Mr Thomas Henderson at Drysdale, Mr William Sibbald at Johnston, Mr William Wightman at Dalton, *Ministers*; William Tait, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Lochmaben*, Mr William Johnston, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Penpont*, Mr William Keyden at Penpont, Mr James Keyden at Keir, *Ministers*; Mr William Carson, merchant in Closeburn, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dumfries*, Mr Alexander Scott at Dumfries, Mr William Macmorine at Carlaverock, Mr Theodore Edgar Keyden at Terreagles, *Ministers*; Thomas Crichton, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkcudbright*, Dr John Scott at Twinholm, Dr Robert Mutter at Kirkcudbright, Mr John Johnston at Crossmichael, *Ministers*; James Gordon, younger of Culvenan, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Kirkcudbright*, Horatius Cannan, Esq; of Barley:—From the *Burgh* of *New Galloway*, Mr Robert Heron, Preacher of the Gospel:—From the *Burgh* of *Wigton*, Mr John Jaffray, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Stranraer*, Mr Anthony Stewart at Newluce, Mr William Rose at Kirkcolm, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Adair, Esq; of Genoch, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Stranraer*, Thomas Smith, Esq; one of the principal clerks to the bills:—From the *Presbytery* of *Ayr*, Dr William M'Quhae at St Quivox, Mr John Shepherd at Muirkirk, Mr Robert Duncan at Dundonald, Mr James Thomson at Girvan, Mr William Ritchie at Tarbolton, *Ministers*; Lord Glenlee, Thomas Kennedy, Esq; of Denure, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Ayr*, George Fergusson, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Irvine*, Mr Alexander Miller at Kilmaurs, Mr Robert Urquhart at Kilbirnie, Mr Robert Macvey at Beith, *Ministers*; the Honourable Mr Patrick Boyle of Shewalton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Irvine*, David Boyle, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Paisley*, Mr Walter Young at Erskine, Mr John Monteith junior, at Neilston, Mr George Maclatchie at Mearns, Mr Stevenson Macgill at Eastwood, *Ministers*; Hugh Jameson, Esq; eldest Magistrate of Paisley, Robert Davidson, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Hamilton*, Dr James Meek at Cambuslang, Dr Alexander Hutchison, at Hamilton, Mr Patrick Macbeth at Glasgow, *Ministers*; Professor George Jardine, Glasgow, *Ruling*

*Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Lanark*, Mr James Fergusson at Pittenain, Mr Joseph Henderson at Wiston, *Ministers* ; James Miller, Esq; of Hallhill, Advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Glasgow*, Dr William Taylor at Glasgow, Mr William Dun at Kirkin-tulloch, Mr David Dow at Cathcart, Mr John Pollock at Govan, *Ministers* ; Sir John Stirling of Glorat, Bart. John Corbet, Esq; of Tolcros, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *City of Glasgow*, John Dunlop, Esq; of Rosebank, Lord Provost of the City :—From the *University of Glasgow*, Dr Hugh Macleod, Professor of Ecclesiastical History :—From the *Burgh of Rutherglen*, James Davidson, Esq; writer to the Signet :—From the *Presbytery of Dunbarton*, Mr James Graham at Killern, Dr John Stuart at Luss, Mr John Gillespie at Arrochar, *Ministers* ;—The Right Honourable Ilay Campbell, Lord President of the Court of Session, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Dunbarton*, Archibald Campbell, Esq; younger of Succoth :—From the *Presbytery of Dunoon*, Mr Charles Stewart at Strachur, Mr Dugald Macdugall at Lochgoilhead, *Ministers* ; John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Rothsay*, William Macleod-Bannatyne, Esq; of Kames :—From the *Burgh of Campbelton*, William Campbell, Esq; of Fairfield :—From the *Burgh of Inverary*, Humphry Trafford Campbell, Esq; younger of Ashnith :—From the *Presbytery of Lorn*, Mr Patrick Campbell, at Kilninver, Dr Joseph Macintyre at Glenorchie, *Ministers* ; John Campbell, Esq; of Lochend, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Mull*, Mr Alexander Campbell at Ardnamurchan, Mr Archibald Maccoll at Tirie, *Ministers* ; Allan Macdougall of Hayfield, Esq; *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Dunkeld*, Mr William Innerarity at Caputh, Mr Alexander Niven at Dunkeld, Mr Colin Macvean at Kenmore, Mr Hugh Macdougall at Killin, *Ministers* ; Thomas Elder, Esq; of Forneth, David Stewart, Esq; merchant in Leith, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Presbytery of Perth*, Mr John Inglis at Tibbermuir, Mr James Beatson at Dumbarnie, Mr William Aitkin at Scone, Mr David Dow junior at Errol, *Ministers* ; Archibald Campbell, Esq; younger of Clathick, Mr Alexander Beatson, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Presbytery of Stirling*, Mr Robert Moodie at Clackmannan, Mr Robert Knox at Larbert and Dunipace, *Ministers* ; Burnet Bruce, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Auchterarder*, Mr John Baird at Dunning, Mr William

William Graham at Fossaway, Mr Andrew Duncan at Auchterarder, *Ministers*; Peter Murray, Esq; younger of Auchtertyre, Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Dunblane*, Mr Robert Stirling at Dunblane, Mr Patrick Murray at Kilmadock, *Ministers*; Professor William Richardson, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Dunfermline*, Mr Archibald Smith at Kinross, Mr Allan Maclean at Dunfermline, Mr Andrew Robertson at Inverkeithing, *Ministers*; Sir Charles Preston of Valayfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Culrofs*, George Abercromby, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery of Kirkcaldy*, Mr George Willis at Leslie, Mr John Thomson at Markinch, Mr George Gib. at Wemyss, *Ministers*; Alexander Park of Lochore, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Dysart*, Mr Alexander Whyte, shipmaster:—From the *Presbytery of Cupar*, Mr Robert Bogie at Logie, Mr Robert Macculloch at Dairfie, Dr Thomas Stewart at Newburgh, Mr Lawrence Adamson at Cupar, *Ministers*; George Greenlaw, Esq; of Hilton, Mr David Simpson in Dumbog, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh of Cupar*, Major John Melville of Cairnie:—From the *Presbytery of St Andrew's*, Dr John Adamson at St Andrew's, Mr Thomas Kettle at Leuchars, Mr Andrew Bell at Crail, Mr David Williamson at Ferry-Port-on-craig, *Ministers*; Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Monypenny of Pitmilley, Professor Henry David Hill, St Andrew's, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh of St Andrew's*, The Honourable Henry Erskine, Advocate:—From the *University of St Andrew's*, Dr George Hill, principal of St Mary's College:—From the *Burgh of Crail*, Mr Thomas Weir, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery of Meigle*, Mr James Ogilvie at Eassie, Mr Alexander Thomson at Lentrathan, Mr Colin Symers at Alyth, *Ministers*; Sir William Ramsay of Banff, Baronet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Forfar*, Mr David Ferney at Kinnettles, Mr James Mitchell at Aberlemno, *Ministers*; Mr John Moncreiff, apothecary in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Forfar*, Robert Graham, Esq; of Fintry:—From the *Presbytery of Dundee*, Mr Walter Tait at Lundie and Fowls, Mr Patrick Macvicar at Dundee, Mr James Scott at Auchterhouse, *Ministers*; George Paterson, Esq; of Castlehuntly, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Dundee*, James L'Amey, Esq; Advocate, younger of Dunkenny:—From the *Presbytery of Aberbrothock*, Mr John Gowans at Lunan, Mr William Milligan at Kirk-

den, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Milne, merchant, Canon-  
gate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Brechin*,  
Mr Robert Hannah at Strickathrow, Mr James Mit-  
chell at Montrose, Mr Andrew Fergusson at Maryton,  
*Ministers*; James Wauchope, Esq; younger of Edmon-  
stone, Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Bre-*  
*chin*, Adam Gillies, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presby-*  
*tery of Fordoun*, Mr Alexander Thom at Glenbervie,  
Mr James Leslie at Fordoun, Mr George Cook at Law-  
rencekirk, *Ministers*; John Burnet, Esq; Advocate, *Ru-*  
*ling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Aberdeen*, Dr George  
Gordon at Aberdeen, Mr George Morison at Banchory  
Devenick, Mr Alexander John Forsyth at Belhelvie,  
Mr Alexander Simpson at Old Machar, *Ministers*; Wil-  
liam Robertson, Esq; Advocate, Procurator for the  
Church, John Gordon, Esq; of Craig, *Ruling Elders*:  
—From the *Presbytery of Kincardine O'Neal*, Mr Robert  
Farquharson at Logie Coldstone, Mr Alexander Mearns  
at Cluny, Mr Alexander Robertson at Coul, *Ministers*;  
William Macdonald, Esq; of Reneaton, *Ruling Elder*:—  
From the *Presbytery of Alford*, Mr John Harper at Kil-  
drummy, Dr George Minty at Kinnethmont, Mr John  
Gordon at Cabrach, *Ministers*; James Gordon, Esq;  
younger of Craig, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery*  
*of Ellon*, Mr Alexander Cock at Cruden, Mr George Pi-  
rie at Slains, *Ministers*:—From the *Presbytery of Garioch*,  
Mr Thomas Tait at Meldrum, Mr Alexander Duff at  
Monymusk, Mr William Cock at Culsalmond, *Ministers*;  
William Gordon, Esq; younger of Rothney, *Ruling El-*  
*der*:—From the *Presbytery of Deer*, Mr John Lundie at  
Loanmay, Mr William Cumin at Rathen, Mr William  
Frazer at Tyrie, *Ministers*; Mr John Taylor, writer to  
the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Turreff*,  
Mr John Falconer at Fyvie, Mr Robert Gordon at Drum-  
blade, *Ministers*; Mr Archibald Miln, writer to the Sig-  
net, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Fordyce*, Mr  
Robert Grant at Cullen, Mr Alexander Gray at Ordi-  
quhill, *Ministers*; Mr George Andrew, writer in Edin-  
burgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Banff*, George  
Cranston of Dewar, Esq;—From the *Presbytery of Strath-*  
*bogie*, Mr James Miln at Rhyne, Mr Francis Forbes at  
Grange, *Ministers*; Mr Baron Gordon, *Ruling Elder*:  
—From the *Presbytery of Aberlour*, Mr George Cruik-  
shank at Rothés, Mr William Spence at Inveraven, *Mi-*  
*nisters*; The Honourable Arthur Duff, *Ruling Elder*:—  
From the *Presbytery of Abernethy*, Mr Lewis Grant at  
Cromdale,

Cromdale, Mr John Anderson at Kingusie, *Ministers* ; Dr Gregory Grant, physician in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of Elgin, Mr James Gillan at Speymouth, Mr William Macbaine at Alves, *Ministers* ; Mr Thomas Gordon, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh* of Elgin, Mr Francis Nicol, preacher of the Gospel :—From the *Presbytery* of Forres, Mr William Stephen at Rafford, Mr John Hoyer at Kinloss, *Ministers* ; George Cuming of Relugas, Esq; *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of Nairn, Mr John Morrison at Nairn, Mr John Paterfon at Auldearn, *Ministers* ; Mr Alexander Grant, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of Inverness, Mr Alexander Fraser at Inverness, Mr Hugh Mackay at Moy, *Ministers* ; Simon Fraser of Farahne, Esq; *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of Chanonry, Mr Roderick Mackenzie at Kilmuir Wester, Mr Robert Smith at Cromarty, *Ministers* ; Convener John Lindsay of Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of Tain, Mr John Mathison at Kilmuir Easter, Mr Thomas Urquhart at Roskeen, *Ministers* ; Charles Ross, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of Dingwall, Mr John Fraser at Kilmorack, Mr Charles Calder at Urquhart, *Ministers* ; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of Abertarph, Mr Thomas Ross at Kilmanivaig, Mr James Grant at Urquhart, *Ministers* :—From the *Presbytery* of Sky, Mr Martin Macpherson at Slate, Mr Malcolm Macleod at Snizort, *Ministers* ; The Right Honourable Alexander Lord Macdonald, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of Uist, Dr John Macleod at Harris, Mr Edmund Macqueen at Barra, *Ministers* ; Hector Macdonald Buchanan, Esq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of Lochcarron, Mr John Macrae at Glenhiell, Mr Alexander Downie at Lochath, *Ministers* ; Bailie Daniel Miller Canongate, *Ruling Elder* : And the General Assembly added thereto Dr Henry Grieve, one of the Ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator : TO BE COMMISSIONERS of this General Assembly, to the effect after mentioned ; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon ; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener, when and where they shall

shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully empowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs, or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year One thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here inserted; and that they inquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books and pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission, to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine; and ripen such affairs, for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise, to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorized by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline



pline and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correspondence with the Committee for reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them, as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies One thousand seven hundred and twelve, and One thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Assembly One thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Assembly held in the year One thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission; and such of the members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same: And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlement of vacant churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly,

as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been some time the practice, but shall allow the same to lie over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th act of the Assembly One thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.



## VIII.

COMMISSION to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that end.

*Edinburgh, May 30. Sess. 9.*

**T**HE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr WILLIAM GREENFILD, one of the Ministers of the City, and Professor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres in the University of Edinburgh, their Moderator, all the ministers who are members of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr Walter Ross, Mr William Mackenzie, Mr William Sutherland Mr James Watson, Mr James Bremner, Mr John Anderson at Stronsay, Mr James Sands, Mr Hugh Meiklejohn, Mr Robert Anderson, Mr William Marshall, Dr Alexander Carlyle, Mr George Murray, Mr Selby Ord, Mr Robert Scott, Mr William Blackie, Mr William Scott,

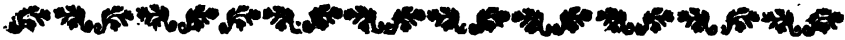
Scott, Mr William Campbell, Mr John Russell, Mr Thomas Henderson, Mr William Keyden, Mr Alexander Scott, Mr John Johnston, Mr William Rose, Dr William Macquae, Mr John Shepherd, Mr Alexander Milder, Mr Walter Young, Dr James Meek, Mr James Fergusson, Dr William Taylor, Dr John Stuart, Mr Dugald Macdougall, Mr Patrick Campbell, Mr Alexander Campbell, Mr William Innerarity, Mr Alexander Niven, Mr John Inglis, Mr James Beatson, Mr Robert Moodie, Mr John Baird, Mr Patrick Murray, Mr Allan Maclean, Mr George Willis, Mr Robert Bogie, Dr John Adamson, Dr George Hill, Mr James Ogilvie, Mr David Ferney, Mr Patrick Macvicar, Mr William Milligan, Mr Robert Hannah, Mr George Cook, Dr George Gordon, Mr Alexander Mearns, Mr John Harper, Mr Alexander Cock, Mr Thomas Tait, Mr John Lundie, Mr John Falconer, Mr Robert Grant, Mr James Miln, Mr George Cruickshank, Mr Lewis Grant, Mr William Macbain, Mr John Hoyes, Mr John Morrison, Mr Hugh Mackay, Mr Roderick Mackenzie, Mr John Mathieson, Mr John Fraser, Mr Thomas Ross, Mr Martin Macpherson, Dr John Macleod, Mr John Macrae, *Ministers*; Mr William Maclean, Sir John Sinclair, Baronet, Mr James Horne, Mr Alexander Youngson, Malcolm Laing, Esq; Mr Richard Richardson, Commissioner Grieve, Professor Dalzel, Lord Meadowbank, Baillie George Spankie, William Simpson, Esq; the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Convener Thomas Hay, John Meek, Esq; Mr Solicitor General, John Dickson, Esq; James Montgomery, Esq; the Right Honourable the Lord Advocate, Matthew Sandilands, Esq; the Earl of Lauderdale, Mark Pringle, Esq; Mr Alexander Cunningham, Mr Joseph Norris, Charles Hope, Esq; Mr James Robertson, William Tait, Esq; Mr William Johnston, Mr Horatius Cannan, Mr Robert Heron, Mr John Jeffrey, Mr Thomas Adair, Mr Thomas Smith, Lord Glenlee, George Fergusson, Esq; the Honourable Patrick Boyle, David Boyle, Esq; Robert Davidson, Esq; Provost John Dunlop, Dr Hugh Macleod, Mr James Davidson, the Right Honourable the Lord President, Archibald Campbell, Esq; *junior*, John Lamont, Esq; William Macleod-Bannatyne, Esq; William Campbell of Fairfield, Esq; Humphry Trafford Campbell, Esq; Mr Allan Macdougall, Thomas Elder, Esq; Mr Alexander Beatson, George Abercromby, Esq; Major John Melville, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Monypenny, Mr Thomas Weir, Sir William Ramsay, Baronet,

Baronet, Mr John Moncreiff, Robert Graham, Esq; James L'Amy, Esq; Mr Thomas Milne, James Wauchope, Esq; Adam Gillies, Esq; John Burnet, Esq; the Procurator, Mr William Macdonald, James Gordon, Esq; younger of Craig, Mr William Gordon, Mr John Taylor, Mr Archibald Miln, Mr George Andrew, George Cranston, Esq; Baron Gordon, the Honourable Arthur Duff, Dr Gregory Grant, Mr Thomas Gordon, Mr George Cumin, Mr Alexander Grant, Convener John Lindsay, Charles Ross, Esq; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, Lord Macdonald, Mr Hector Macdonald Buchanan, Bailie Daniel Miller, *Ruling Elders*; TO BE A COMMITTEE of this Assembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty for these ends, according to, and in terms of his Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to his Majesty's design, expressed in His warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for for the same, of a pious life and conversation; prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty

loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee to have a particular regard, in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Assemblies; and to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their registers the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations of the several Missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said Missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning Missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the Missionaries, except upon receipts from the Missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, that they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts; and that every Catechist, who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners, or gentlemen of the district shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to the Cashier, a declaration, that he has received the particular sum specified; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall, in like manner, bear, that the Catechist has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no such declaration of the Catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the Cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the Catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty: That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed

to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the Missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned, who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named, as Members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be Ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of Missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be Ministers; and the said Committee are appointed to have their first general meeting at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of the first of the stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly; their second meeting (which is for fixing the annual scheme) upon the second Thursday of July, with power to those Members who shall then be present, to adjourn; and their other two general meetings the first lawful days after the stated meetings of the Commission of the General Assembly, in November and March, within the Assembly ayle at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty,

Bounty, to pay out the same, as he shall be directed and ordered by the foresaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of His Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be Ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lie on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time, the person complained of, and the Presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just account of the matter against the next meeting. And it is farther appointed, That after the yearly scheme of Missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their answer to these letters, at farthest, with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot complete it, they shall name a sub-committee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And empowered the Committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said Committee, in making up the scheme of Missionaries, &c. do not exceed the sum in the grant.



## IX.

Edinburgh, May 28. 1796. Sess. 9.

*THE Report of the Committee appointed to class returns to Overtures was called for, given in, and read.—The Assembly ordered the Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers to be re-transmitted; with a renewal of the Recommendation to such Presbyteries as have sent no Returns, to send them without further delay.*

### New Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers.

Edinburgh, May 25. 1792. Sess. 8.

**T**HE General Assembly having taken under their serious consideration, the great danger to which the interests of Religion and of this Church may be exposed, by licensing any to preach the Gospel, who are not duly qualified for that important trust, do hereby enact and ordain, That in all time coming the following regulations shall be strictly observed:

I. It is hereby enacted, That no Student shall be entered upon the Roll of any Professor of Divinity, unless he shall produce to the said Professor a certificate from the Minister of the parish in which he has his usual residence; or in his absence, or during a vacancy in said parish, from some neighbouring Minister, bearing, that his character is suitable to his views; together with a diploma of Master of Arts, or certificates from the several Professors of Philosophy, under whom he hath studied, from which it may be clearly ascertained that, in some University or Universities, he hath gone through a full course of Philosophy, in some winter-sessions of College



College preceding that in which the certificates are produced.

II. The General Assembly do likewise hereby ordain, That all Students who have been inrolled by Professors of Divinity, in the manner prescribed by this act, shall continue to prosecute the study of Divinity for the term of six Sessions: Provided always, That if any Student hath given regular attendance in the Divinity Hall during three Sessions, his Course shall be considered as completed in four Sessions; and that if he hath given regular attendance in the Hall during two Sessions, his Course shall be considered as completed in five Sessions. And the Assembly do further ordain, That in each of these cases, Students shall be inrolled by the Professors during the several Sessions of their respective Courses, and deliver in the Divinity Hall, in the manner herein afterwards provided, an Exegetis in Latin, on some controverted Head in Divinity, a Homily in English, an Exercise and Addition, a Lecture on some large portion of Scripture, and a popular Sermon, together with such other exercises as the Professors shall think proper to prescribe. And the Assembly farther enact and declare, That a Student is entitled to apply to the Professor for his certificates, that he may be proposed for trials, and that the preliminary steps may be taken by the Presbytery during the currency of the last Session of his Course, as above described; with this limitation, that if the said last Session is to be claimed as a Session of regular attendance, he shall, toward the conclusion thereof, obtain a new certificate of his attendance during its currency, and produce the same to the Presbytery or Synod.

III. Professors of Divinity are required to attend, as much as circumstances may permit, to the conduct of such Students as are under their care, and, as far as they find it practicable, to insist that every Student shall deliver his first discourse some time during his second Session, at the latest, and the remainder of his Discourses at such periods as may enable him to deliver the whole of them before the end of January of the last Session of his Course.

IV. When a Student is proposed to any Presbytery, in order to be taken upon trials, the Presbytery shall be

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alone,

alone, and the motion for that purpose shall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting. In the mean time, the Presbytery shall appoint the Member by whom the Student has been proposed, to lay before the said meeting the certificate or certificates in favour of the Student, that are specified in the third paragraph of the fifth section of this act; to desire him to attend the same; and to inform him, that, previously to the meeting, he ought, as far as circumstances may permit, to wait on such Ministers of the Presbytery as have not formerly had an opportunity of conversing with him in private.

V. When the time appointed for considering the motion is arrived, the Presbytery shall strictly observe the following regulations.

1<sup>st</sup>, The Presbytery shall be alone, while they are employed in discussing the several preliminaries respecting Students who are proposed for trials.

2<sup>d</sup>, They shall require satisfying evidence, that every Student who is proposed for that purpose, has completed the twenty-first year of his age.

3<sup>d</sup>, No Student shall be admitted to trials, unless he produces to the Presbytery, a certificate or certificates from the Professor or Professors of Divinity, under whose tuition he hath studied, bearing, that he hath prosecuted his studies, and delivered his Discourses, in the manner prescribed by this act; and that his conduct, as far as consists with the knowledge of the said Professor, or Professors, has been in every respect suitable to his views in life. And the General Assembly do likewise hereby enact, That the Presbytery shall record at full length the said certificate, or certificates, in their minutes: And it is hereby enacted and declared, That the Student having lodged such certificate or certificates, shall be entitled to obtain extracts of the same, if demanded.

4<sup>th</sup>, No Presbytery shall receive any Student upon trials, unless they are satisfied that he is of good report; sound in his principles; pious, sober, grave, and prudent, in his behaviour; of a peaceable disposition; and well affected to the happy establishment in this kingdom, both in Church and State. And, that the Presbytery may proceed with all due caution, in a matter of such peculiar importance, they shall not agree to the motion in behalf of the Student, unless his residence, during the year

year preceding, has been chiefly within their bounds, or he shall produce sufficient testimonials from the Presbytery, in whose bounds his residence has chiefly been during that term, bearing, that his character is such as is described in the immediately preceding sentence of this paragraph, and recommending him, in these respects, to the Presbytery before whom the proposal is made, as a proper person to be entered upon trials.

5th, The Presbytery shall not agree to the motion in favour of the Student, unless they are satisfied, that he has made a competent degree of proficiency in those several branches of knowledge which are necessary to enable him to be an useful Preacher of the Gospel. And the General Assembly ordain, that the Presbytery, in order to procure full information in this respect, shall examine the Student, strictly, and privately, on his knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, and of Philosophy and Theology.

6th, If after these preliminary steps have been taken, the Presbytery shall be of opinion, that the Student is duly qualified in these several particulars, they shall record this opinion in their minutes, and order their clerk to write letters to the several Presbyteries within the bounds of, the Provincial Synod, two kalendar months at least before the meeting of the same, informing them of the Presbytery's intention to take the Student upon Public Trials, and bearing, that the certificate, or certificates in his favour, which are required by this act, have been regularly laid before them. But it is hereby provided, That within the bounds of such Synods as meet only once a-year, a Student may be entitled to have these circular letters written half a-year sooner than would be otherwise competent.

VI. The General Assembly do likewise hereby enact and declare, That, at the request of the Student, it shall be competent to any Presbytery to transfer the receiving of the Public Trials, or any part thereof, certifying to the Presbytery to which the transference is to be made, that the various preliminary steps have been taken according to the directions of this act; and that such parts of the public and private trials as have been already gone through, have been received with approbation.

VII. If

VII. If a Student hath studied, either in whole or in part, in Protestant Universities which are not within the bounds of this Church, he shall, when he is proposed to any Presbytery for trials, be required to produce satisfying testimonials from the Professors of Divinity in said Universities; and the time which these Professors shall certify to have been employed by him in studying Divinity under their tuition, shall be computed in the same manner as if he had prosecuted his studies in any of the Universities within the bounds of this Church. But it is hereby provided, That no Student, in such circumstances, shall be admitted even to those private trials which are appointed to be taken before the writing of the circular letters, sooner than six kalendar months after his arrival in Scotland.

VIII. The General Assembly ordain, That if a Presbytery propose to take a Student upon public trials, and have, with that view, written the circular letters, as is herein required, public intimation thereof shall be made at some diet of the next meeting of the Provincial Synod, which shall not be the last diet thereof: And the Presbytery clerk is hereby required to transmit to the Synod clerk an extract of the certificate, or certificates laid before the Presbytery in favour of the Student, in order that the same may be produced at this diet of the Synod. And it is likewise hereby ordained, That at some subsequent diet of the Synod, particular inquiry shall be made, whether any of the Members of the Court has any objection to offer against the Student being entered upon Public Trials: And that the Synod then, taking into consideration the extract produced, and the whole of the case, shall judge of the expediency of allowing the Presbytery to admit the Student on trials: Or if in any case the Presbytery clerk shall fail to transmit the extracts of the certificates above mentioned, the Student may produce to the Synod, by himself or by any Member of the Court, the extract of the same, which by this act he is entitled to obtain.

IX. If the Synod shall allow the Student to be taken upon Public Trials, the Presbytery shall proceed therein with all convenient speed; and the Assembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the Student, and in the order herein mentioned: 1<sup>st</sup>, Catechetic trials on Divinity, Chronology, and Church History; 2<sup>d</sup>, A trial on the

the Hebrew and Greek languages; *3d*, An Exegetis in Latin on some controverted Head in Divinity; *4th*, A Homily in English; *5th*, An Exercise and Addition; *6th*, A Lecture on some large portion of Scripture; *7th*, A popular Sermon; it being understood, that if the Presbytery see cause, they may examine the Student upon the subject of these several Discourses.

X. The Student having gone through the several trials, which are mentioned in the immediately preceding section of this act, the Presbytery are ordained to proceed in the following order.

*1st*, They shall, deliberately and seriously, take a conjunct view of the whole trials; and if they shall be of opinion, that the Student is not properly qualified to perform the duties incumbent upon a Preacher of the Gospel, they shall by no means grant him a License in his present circumstances.

*2d*, If, upon this review of the trials, the Presbytery are fully satisfied therewith, they shall record this opinion in their minutes.

*3d*, The Presbytery shall then propose to the Student the questions that are appointed to be put to all who pass Trials by act 10th, Assembly 1711, and require him to subscribe the *Formula* which is prescribed by the said act. And the General Assembly strictly prohibit all Presbyteries from licensing any Student to preach the Gospel, who shall not give explicit and satisfying answers to these questions, and subscribe the said *Formula*.

*4th*, The Presbytery shall order the act of Assembly 1759, against Simoniackal practices, to be read to the Student in their presence.

*Lastly*, The Presbytery shall appoint their Moderator to license the Student to preach the Gospel, and order their clerk to furnish him with an extract of his license.

XI. For the better observance of this act, the General Assembly ordain, *1st*, That it shall be printed among their other printed acts; *2d*, That it shall be printed by itself, in some convenient form; *3d*, That a copy of this separate edition shall be transmitted to each Professor of Divinity in the Universities of Scotland; and that the said Professors shall read the same in their respective Halls, once at least during every Session, and at such times as they have reason to expect the attendance

of the greatest number of Students for that Session; and, *lastly*, That a copy of the same edition shall likewise be transmitted to the clerks of each Synod, and Presbytery, within the bounds of this Church, and that the said clerks shall keep the same along with their minutes, and bring it up to each meeting of their respective Courts, for the use of the Members.



## X.

### Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

*Edinburgh, 30th May 1796. Sess. ult.*

**T**HE next GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 18th day of May 1797.

*Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by*

ANDREW DALZEL, *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

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# ABRIDGMENT

## OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the CHURCH of SCOTLAND, held at Edinburgh, in the Year 1796, which are not printed at full length.

*Thursday, May 19. 1796. Sess. I.*

**A**FTER Sermon by the Reverend Dr JAMES MEEK, Minister at Cambuslang, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders convened in the Assembly-house in the usual manner: And after Prayer by the said Dr James Meek, the Reverend Dr WILLIAM GREENFIELD, one of the Ministers of the City, and Professor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres in the University of Edinburgh, being unanimously chosen Moderator, he, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The KING's Commission to the Right Honourable DAVID Earl of LEVEN and MELVILLE, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person, read, and ordered to be recorded. See printed Acts, No. I.

The King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, read, and ordered to be recorded. and No. II.

His Majesty's Royal Warrant for L. 1000 was also delivered to the Assembly, and ordered to be recorded.

The Commissioners Speech at opening the Assembly, and the Moderator's Speech in return thereto.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

A congratulatory Address to his Majesty on the birth of a Princess, the Daughter of their Royal Highnesses the PRINCE and PRINCESS of WALES:

Also an Address to his Majesty, on his providential preservation from the daring and atrocious attempt lately made against his Royal Person, agreed to; and a Committee appointed to prepare both Addresses.

A Committee named for revising the Commissions to the Members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof, naming Ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, and receiving Lists of Probationers in the several Presbyteries in order to their being recorded.

A Committee for Overtures named,

A Committee for Bills, References and Appeals, named.

Adjournment.

K

*Friday,*

ABRIDGMENT. 1796.

Friday, May 20. 1796. *Seff. 2.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

A diet spent in Prayer.

Act VII. of the Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of the business of the Assembly, read, and the observation thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the Commissioner.

The Committee for revising Commissions appointed to meet.

The Committees for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Saturday, May 21. 1796. *Seff. 3.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

The draught of the Answer to the King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly: Also the draught of an Address to his Majesty on his late providential preservation: And the draught of an Address to his Majesty on the birth of a Princess, the Daughter of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, being severally brought in and approved, his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertook to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The Report of the Committee for overtures was given in and read.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Lochcarron, "That the Elder is stated as having signed the Formula enjoined by the 11th Act of Assembly 1794, instead of 1694." In respect the Elder has frequently been attested in former Assemblies, as having signed the proper Formula, and as the informality appeared merely to be the mistake of the Clerk in copying a single figure, viz. 7 instead of 6, the Assembly repelled the objection, and sustained the Commission.

It was objected to the Commission from the burgh of Culrofs, "That the attestation of the Kirk-session wants the clause, "certifying, that the Commissioner has signed the Formula prescribed by the 11th Act of the Assembly 1694, and the Presbytery, in their attestation, mention this exception to the Commissioner, but attest him as qualified in every other respect." The Assembly agreed, that this Commission shall be sustained, when the Commissioner shall have subscribed the above mentioned Formula at the bar of the Assembly; and Mr George Abercromby, Advocate, the Commissioner, did subscribe the formula prescribed by the 11th Act of Assembly 1694, in presence of the Assembly, and took his seat accordingly.

Overture from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, anent printing of the Bible, read, and ordered to lie on the table till Monday.

The

## ABRIDGMENT, 1796.

The Report of the Committee of last Assembly on Chapels of Ease was read, and ordered to lie on the table till Wednesday, and the Report in the meantime was ordered to be printed.

The roll of causes transmitted by the Committee for Bills was called for, produced, and read.

The Assembly agreed to take up the petition of Mr Simpson on Monday, and the cause of Mr Gillanders on Tuesday.

A Committee was named to revise the actings and proceedings of the Commission of last General Assembly. And

A Committee named to revise the Actings and Proceedings of the Committee appointed by last Assembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

A Committee was named to revise the accounts of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, and other public accounts, consider the state of the Church's public money, and prepare overtures about the same.

The Committee for Overtures was appointed to meet this evening, and empowered to receive from the several Members any instructions given to them by the respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures thereon to the Assembly; and to receive and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and Superstition, and prepare Overtures for preventing and suppressing thereof.

The Committee for Bills was appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

*Monday, May 23. 1796. Sess. 4.*

*Sederunt.*

Report of the Committee for Overtures given in, and read.

Agreed to consider the Overture from the Synod of Perth and Stirling on Thursday next, and the Overture from the Synod of Fife immediately after.

Report of the Committee for Bills given in, and read.

A special Committee appointed to consider the petition of Mr Macdougall, Minister of Lochgoilhead, and to report on Friday.

Synod Books called for.

The Overture from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr was read; and, in respect that the important object mentioned in the Overture has already been obtained by the printing and publication of a new edition of the Bible, the Assembly dismissed the same.

The Assembly proceeded to consider the reference from the Synod of Aberdeen, respecting ministers of Chapels of Ease being elected Members of Church Judicatories: After reasoning, and the vote being put, the Assembly declared, That it appears to this Assembly, that Ministers of Chapels of Ease, being in the habitual exercise of the functions of the ministerial

## ABRIDGMENT, 1796.

terial office, are thereby disqualified from sitting as lay-elders in the judicatories of this Church.  
The Committees for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.  
Adjournment.

*Tuesday, May 24. 1796. Sess. 5.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

Report of the Committee for Overtures given in, and read.

The Assembly agreed to consider the Instructions and Overture from the Synod of Moray on Thursday, along with the Overture on the same subject from the Synod of Fife.

Report of the Committee on the Orkney grievances given in and read, and ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow.

An Appeal at the instance of Mr John Gillanders, Minister of Fern, in the Presbytery of Brechin, from a sentence of the Synod of Angus and Mearns, of date 27th October 1795, heard. The Assembly reversed the sentences of the Presbytery of Brechin, and of the Synod of Angus and Mearns; disapproved of the manner in which the Presbytery have conducted their visitation in the parish of Fern; remitted this cause to the Presbytery of Brechin, and ordained the Presbytery, at their first ordinary meeting, to pronounce judgment on the accusation brought against Mr Gillanders by Martha Lighton; and thereafter, to summon Alexander Webster, George Deuchar, and John Murison, who, before the Presbytery on the 28th of August, and 4th September 1793, undertook to prove by witnesses certain charges against Mr Gillanders, to come forward, in terms of the form of process, with such of these charges as they shall think proper, in the form of a libel, on or before the 1st of October next, on which libel the Presbytery are to judge; enjoining the Presbytery, notwithstanding any appeals that may be taken from their sentences, to pronounce a judgment upon the relevancy of the libel, if any shall be offered, before the meeting of the Synod of Angus and Mearns, in April next.

Adjournment.

*Wednesday, May 25. 1796. Sess. 6.*

*Sederunt.*

A new Commission produced.

Committees appointed to meet.

The Report of the Committee on the Orkney grievances was given in, read and approved of, with this addition, That if the grievances in the Parish of Evie and Rendal be redressed without a process before the Court of Session, the Assembly instruct the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to commence and carry on a process according to their discretion, in either of the other two cases selected by the Synod of Orkney:

## ABRIDGMENT, 1796.

Orkney: And further, a Committee was appointed to prepare a distinct statement of the grievances complained of in the Synod of Orkney, to be Reported to the Assembly on Saturday; and if then approved of, to be transmitted by the Moderator, in name of the General Assembly, to the Patrons and other heritors of the Parishes in that country.

The Assembly proceeded to consider the Report of the Committee on Chapels of Ease: And first, to consider the Resolutions contained in said Report; and next, the most competent method of enacting the same; and with some amendments, the whole of the Report was unanimously adopted, except the concluding clause, *viz.* "That such Presbytery shall thereafter Report the whole circumstances of the case from their minutes to the next meeting of the General Assembly; and shall not pronounce any final judgment on the petition, till they shall have received the special directions of the Assembly thereon; and that it shall be competent for the petitioners, and for all parties having interest, to be heard on the subject at the bar of the Assembly." And a difference of opinion having arisen respecting this clause, the Assembly agreed to the following state of a vote, *Report* or *Judge*; it being understood, that if it carries *Report*, the concluding clause shall also be adopted; and if it carries *Judge*, that in place of the concluding clause, there shall be substituted the following words: "That such Presbyteries shall thereafter consider the whole circumstances of the case, and pronounce judgment thereon." And the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *Report*. Therefore the concluding clause was also adopted. Against which decision a member dissented; and those who might adhere, were allowed to enter their dissents to-morrow. The Assembly delayed the consideration of the form of enactment till to-morrow.

Upon a motion, the Committee for Overtures was appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

*Thursday, May 26. 1796. Sess. 7.*

*Sederunt.*

Several Members adhered to the dissent of yesterday, respecting Chapels of Ease.

Report of the Committee for Overtures given in, and read.

The Assembly agreed to consider on Saturday, the Overture from the Presbytery of Kincardine-Oneal, anent the method of carrying on Processes against Clergymen.

The public accounts produced, and ordered to lie on the table.

The Assembly, in pursuance of their resolution of yesterday, proceeded to consider the form that may be most competent for enacting the Resolutions then adopted, respecting Chapels of Ease. After long reasoning, the Assembly judging it ex-

## ABRIDGMENT, 1796.

pedient, that no Chapel of Ease should be erected without the knowledge and approbation of the General Assembly, unanimously ordained, &c. (See Printed Acts, No. VI.)

The Assembly proceeded to consider the Overture from the Synod of Perth and Stirling, anent Professors being Ministers of Parishes where they cannot constantly reside. The Overture was unanimously dismissed, as unnecessary, on account of the existing laws in Church and State, on the subject of Residence.

The Overtures anent the diffusion of the Gospel, were delayed till to-morrow.

Upon a motion, the Committee of Bills was appointed to meet. Adjournment.

*Friday, May 27. 1796. Sess. 8.*

*Sederunt.*

A new Commission produced.

Report of the Committee of Bills given in, and read.

The Report of the Committee on the Petition for Mr Dugald Macdougall, Minister of Lochgoilhead, given in, and read.

The Assembly unanimously approved of the Report; and, agreeable thereto, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to defend the process therein mentioned, in name of the Church, at the public expence.

The Report of the Trustees of the fund established by act of Parliament, for a provision to Ministers Widows, &c. containing an account of their proceedings since last General Assembly, and a state of the fund under their management, given in, and ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow: And, upon a motion, the thanks of the House were given from the chair to Sir Henry Moncreiff-Wellwood, for his fidelity, attention and prudence in the management of the fund.

The Assembly proceeded to consider the Overtures from the Synods of Fife and Moray, relative to the diffusion of the Gospel. After reasoning, a motion was made and seconded,

“ That the General Assembly are of opinion, that the object proposed in the Overtures is of the highest importance :

“ But, in respect the facts and circumstances, which are necessary for the General Assembly to come to any resolution

“ upon this subject at present, are not sufficiently explained and

“ instructed ; therefore, the Assembly appoint a Committee to

“ take the subject of them into consideration, and report the

“ result of their enquiries to the next General Assembly :”

And, after farther reasoning, another motion was made and seconded, “ That the General Assembly having considered

“ the Overtures, and judging it highly inexpedient, at this

“ time, to appoint a Collection over Scotland, by the authority of the General Assembly ; and not considering the

“ circumstances of the times as favourable for the General Assembly’s adopting any particular measure, in relation to the

“ object

ABRIDGMENT, 1796.

“ object of the Overtures, dismiss the same: At the same  
“ time, recommend to all the Members of the Church of Scot-  
“ land, in their different stations, to take every competent  
“ method of promoting, within the sphere of their influence,  
“ the knowledge of the Gospel, a just sense of the inestimable  
“ benefits which it conveys to all who embrace it; and the  
“ practice of these virtues, by which Christians make their  
“ light to shine before others: And, while they offer their  
“ fervent prayers to Almighty God for the fulfilment of his  
“ Promise, in giving his Son the Heathen for an inheritance;  
“ they resolve, that they will embrace with zeal and with  
“ thankfulness, any favourable opportunity of contributing, by  
“ their exertions, to the propagation of the Gospel of Christ,  
“ which Divine Providence may hereafter open.” The As-  
sembly agreed to the following state of a vote, *Appoint or*  
*Dismiss*; and the Roll being called, and votes marked, it car-  
ried *Dismiss*: Therefore, the Assembly *dismissed* the Over-  
tures, in terms of, and with the recommendation contained in,  
the second motion accordingly.

The Committee on new applications appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Saturday, May 28. 1796. Sess. 9.

Sederunt.

A new Commission produced.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertson, Advo-  
cate, Procurator for the Church, and exonerating and discharg-  
ing him, and his cautioners, of the sum of L. 486: 0: 6 $\frac{1}{2}$   
Sterling disbursed by him, and appointing, that he give cre-  
dit in his next account for the sum of L. 13: 19: 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  Ster-  
ling, being the balance due by him.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Murray, Agent  
for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him of the  
sum of L. 89: 6: 8 Sterling, disbursed by him, and appoint-  
ing that he take credit in his next account for the sum of  
L. 14: 6: 8 Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the account of Mr James Dickson, Printer for  
the Church, and ordering payment of the sum of L. 10 Ster-  
ling, being the amount thereof.

Act approving of the account of stationary articles furnished to  
the clerks by Mr Elphinston Balfour, and ordering payment  
of the sum of L. 10: 14: 10 Sterling, being the amount there-  
of.

The Report of the visitors of the Commission-record called for;  
the Commissioners' conduct approved of; thanks given to the  
Moderator of the Commission, and their book ordered to be  
attested.

The Report of the Committee for naming Members of the  
Commission of this Assembly, and preparing instructions to  
them, given in, and approved. The Assembly added thereto,

See Printed Acts,  
No. VII.

M

Dr





THE PRINCIPAL  
A C T S  
OF THE  
General Assembly  
OF THE  
C H U R C H  
OF  
S C O T L A N D,

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, THE 18th DAY OF MAY 1797.

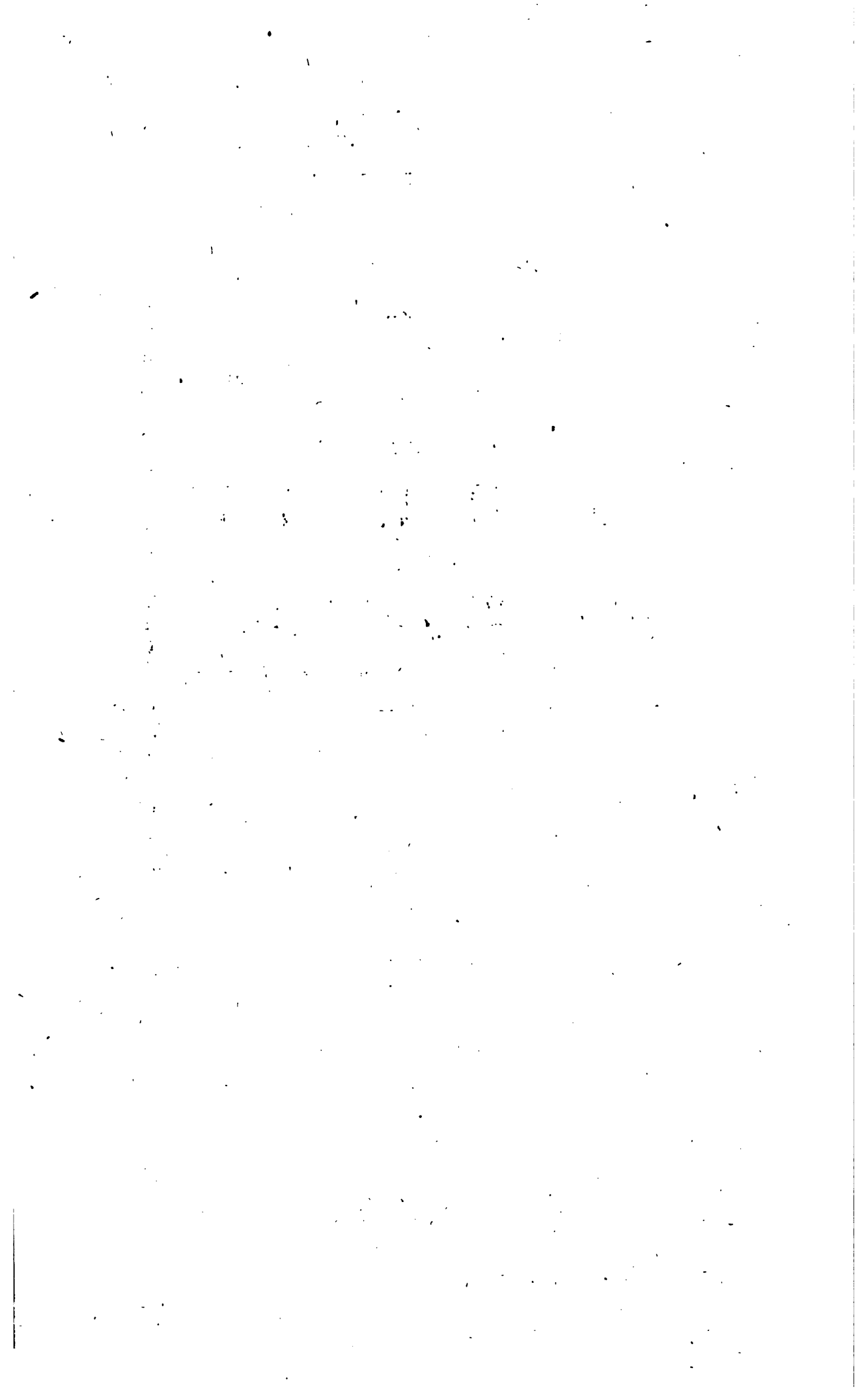
COLLECTED AND EXTRACTED FROM THE RECORDS BY THE CLERK THEREOF.



EDINBURGH:

PRINTED BY JAMES DICKSON, PRINTER TO THE  
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

M.DCC.XCVII.





THE PRINCIPAL  
A C T S  
OF THE  
General Assembly  
OF THE  
CHURCH of SCOTLAND,

Begun at EDINBURGH, the 18th day of MAY 1797,  
and concluded the 29th day of the said Month and  
Year.

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I.

The KING's Commission to DAVID Earl  
of LEVEN and MELVILLE produced,  
and ordered to be recorded.

*Edinburgh, May 18. 1797.*

**T**HE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National  
CHURCH being convened and constituted,  
there was produced to them, by the Right  
Honourable DAVID EARL of LEVEN and  
MELVILLE, the KING's Commission, sealed  
with the seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be  
kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of the Great Seal of  
*Scotland*, making and constituting him his Majesty's  
High

High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Assembly;—the tenor whereof follows:

**G**EORGIUS, Dei gratiâ, Magnæ Britanniae, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentēs litteræ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem Nos considerantes, quod Generalis Ecclesiæ Scotiæ Conventus in decimum octavam diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; Nosque abunde cupidi, et necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem ecclesiæ generalis conventus die statuto debite observetur, atque rebus magni momenti Nos alio votantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; Nosque abunde satisfacti de sufficienti et fidelitate fidelissimæ et prædilectissimi Nostri consanguinei Davidis Comitis de Leven et Melville, quod ad summum munus Nostri supremi Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum rite exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus: Noveritis igitur, Nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, tenoreque præsentium, nominare, constituere, et ordinare, memoratum fidelissimum et prædilectissimum Nostrum consanguineum Davidem Comitem de Leven et Melville, supremum Nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram Nostram Personam et auctoritatem regalem repræsentandi, nec non presentiam Nostram supplendi, et locum Nostrum in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario Nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plenè adeoque libere in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius in eodem summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si Nos ipsi personaliter præsentēs facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula quæ dictus David Comes de Leven et Melville, in hac Nostra Commissionē prosequenda legitime fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, Nos firmiter approbamus et ratificamus. Insuper omnibus et singulis dicti conventus et ecclesiæ pastoribus et presbyteris, cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britanniae Scotiam vocatam, subditis Nostri, cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum Davidem Comitem de Leven et Melville, tanquam supremum Nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoscant et audient, strictè mandamus et præcipimus: Atque hanc Nostram Commissionem à dicto decimo octavo die Maii proximi incipere, et deinceps durante subsequente

*Per signaturam manu S. D. N. Regis superscriptam.*



## II.

**The KING's most gracious Letter to the  
General Assembly, presented to them  
by his Majesty's Commissioner.**

**GEORGE R.**

**R**IGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well.—Impressed with the strongest sense of the many and important benefits which Our Subjects have, for so long a course of years, derived from the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, it is with peculiar satisfaction that we embrace this opportunity of renewing to you the favourable testimonies which we have so often borne to the uprightness of your proceedings. The firm and steady zeal which you have invariably manifested for the interests of Religion and Virtue, the Wisdom with which your proceedings have been always directed, and your constant Loyalty and Attachment to Our Person and Government, whilst they demand Our most hearty acknowledgments, cannot fail of insuring to you the continuance of Our favour and protection.

We have again constituted and appointed Our Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousin, DAVID EARL of LEVEN and MELVILLE, to be Our Commissioner to represent Our Person and Royal Authority in the present Assembly,

Assembly, being fully assured, that the eminent qualifications which have recommended him to Our repeated choice will continue to make him acceptable to you in the execution of the high and important trust committed to his charge.

We feel Ourselves called upon to recommend to you, in the most serious and earnest manner, an unremitted attention to the great objects for which you are assembled; and that you will exert every means, that your zeal and your wisdom can suggest, of checking the growth of impiety and vice, and of inculcating in the minds of Our Subjects those principles of piety towards God, and of obedience to the laws, which are essentially necessary to their happiness and prosperity.

Not doubting but that you feel with Us the high importance of these trusts committed to you, and of their inseparable connection with the welfare of the Church you represent, We assure you of Our fixed determination to maintain it, as by law established, in the full and free enjoyment of all its rights and privileges. And so We bid you heartily farewell.—Given at Our Court at St James's, the 13th day of May 1797, in the thirty-seventh year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

P O R T L A N D.

Addressed thus:—*To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved, the Moderator, Ministers and Elders of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*



### III.

## The General Assembly's Answer to the KING's most gracious Letter.

*May it please your Majesty,*

**T**HE gracious letter with which Your Majesty hath been pleased to honour this meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was received with

with the respect and gratitude due to so distinguished a mark of Your Royal favour.

The strong sense which Your Majesty condescends to express of the benefits derived by our fellow subjects from the successive meetings of our General Assembly, Your Majesty's renewed testimony to the uprightness and wisdom of our proceedings, and the assurance of Your Majesty's continued favour and protection, afford us very powerful motives to persevere in our exertions for the interests of Religion and Virtue, and in the most affectionate loyalty to Your Majesty's sacred Person and Government.

The warm attachment of the Earl of Leven and Melville to the interests of Religion and good government, his affectionate regard to the Church of Scotland, his amiable character and exemplary conduct in private life, with the many eminent qualifications for the high and important trust which have recommended him to Your Majesty's repeated choice as the Representative of Your Royal Person, render the re-appointment of him so acceptable to us, that we receive it as a peculiar mark of Your Royal favour to this Assembly.

Your Majesty's Royal Donation for the propagation of Christian Knowledge, and of the principles of the reformed Religion in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, we, with all thankfulness, receive as a continued proof of Your Majesty's paternal attention to the best interests of Your Subjects; and it shall be our endeavour to apply it with wisdom and fidelity, in promoting the valuable and pious purpose for which it is designed.

Deeply impressed with Your Majesty's serious and earnest recommendation, and sensible how much the prosperity and happiness of the people under our care depend on their devout regard to Almighty God, and their strict obedience to the laws and established authorities of their country, we shall bestow an unremitting attention on the great objects for which we are assembled, and shall diligently apply every means in our power for checking the growth of impiety and vice, and for cherishing and strengthening the principles of Religion and good order.

Always mindful of the importance of the trusts committed to us, and of the intimate connection betwixt our faithful discharge of these trusts, and the best interests of the Church which we represent, we shall study to deserve Your Majesty's approbation; and we rely with entire confidence on Your Royal determination to maintain the Church of Scotland, as by law established,

in

in the full and free enjoyment of all its rights and privileges.

That Almighty God, the Father of our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST, may protect Your Royal Person, direct Your Councils, prolong Your days, and prosper Your Administration; that the Divine favour may ever attend Your Royal Consort, the PRINCE and PRINCESS of WALES, and all the Royal family; and that, after reigning long on earth with wisdom and felicity, over a free, loyal and happy people, You may ascend to those realms where pious and virtuous Princes inherit an unfading Crown,—are the earnest Prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient,

And most loyal Subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, }  
May 20. 1797. }

JOHN ADAMSON, *Moderator.*





## IV.

ADDRESS to HIS MAJESTY on the Marriage of Her Royal Highness the PRINCESS ROYAL with His Serene Highness the Hereditary PRINCE of WIRTEMBERG.

*May it please Your Majesty,*

**W**E, Your Majesty's most faithful and loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in the General Assembly, beg leave to approach Your Throne with our most respectful congratulations on the marriage of Her Royal Highness the PRINCESS ROYAL of Great Britain, Your Majesty's eldest daughter, with His Serene Highness the Hereditary PRINCE of WIRTEMBERG STUTGARD.

While we sincerely rejoice in every event that may increase Your Majesty's domestic comfort, and enlarge the sphere of Your paternal affections, we regard every extension of Your Royal family as an additional security to our Religion and liberties.

In the present situation of public affairs, so deeply interesting to the British empire, we feel it to be our duty to renew the warmest expressions of our steady and zealous attachment to Your Majesty's sacred Person, and to that constitution which was established by the wisdom and virtue of our forefathers, has been improved under Your Royal ancestors, and is so happily administered by Your Majesty, for the security of those laws, which give equal protection to all Your subjects, and for the advancement of national prosperity. We have the satisfaction of assuring Your Majesty, that the great body of the people under our care concur with us in the same sentiments of loyalty, and in the same

C

reverence

reverence for the laws and institutions of our country ; and that there is no abatement of that spirit, which has produced so many voluntary and generous exertions for the preservation of internal order, for the defence of those realms against the secret machinations and open violence of foreign enemies, and for the support of national honour. They continue to feel and to act as becomes Britons, ready to sacrifice every private consideration in behalf of their beloved Sovereign, of the independence of their country, and of their Religion and liberties.

While our people patiently and cheerfully endure the inevitable toils and burdens of a war, they join with us in cherishing the pleasing hope of peace, when peace can be obtained on terms fair and honourable, such as will give full security for the many blessings by which Your Majesty's subjects are distinguished. For the attainment of which most desirable object, we rely, under God, with the most entire confidence on the wisdom and vigour of Your Majesty's Councils.

That Almighty God, whose Providence rules the nations, and determines the issues of war, may, by the means which He hath chosen, and at his appointed time, turn the hearts of our enemies ; that he may diffuse a spirit of union and loyalty among all Your Majesty's subjects ; that he may prosper the measures of Government, and may continue to bless the British empire, under the light of His countenance ; and that Your Majesty may long reign over a free, happy, and affectionate people,—are the earnest prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most dutiful,

Most faithful, and most obedient Subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, }  
May 24. 1797. }

JOHN ADAMSON, *Moderator.*



## V.

Edinburgh, May 26. 1797. Sess. 8.

*The General Assembly Re-enact and Re-transmit the following Regulations and Overture, enjoining such Presbyteries as have sent no returns to send up their opinions to next Assembly: And upon the motion of a Member, the Assembly unanimously recommend to the Presbyteries of this Church, that, when they are to take into consideration any Overture transmitted to them by the General Assembly, they shall, at a previous ordinary meeting of Presbytery, appoint the particular day, on which they are to consider such Overture.*

## Regulations and Overture respecting the Erection of Chapels of Ease.

Edinburgh, May 26. 1796. Sess. 7.

**T**HE General Assembly, judging it expedient, that no Chapel of Ease should be erected without the knowledge and approbation of the General Assembly, unanimously did, and hereby do ordain, That, in future, if any Petition shall be laid before any Presbytery of this Church, for the erection of a Chapel of Ease, the said Presbytery shall strictly observe the following regulations:

“ That, in future, when a Petition shall be laid before any Presbytery of this Church, for the Erection of a Chapel of Ease, it shall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting; and at that meeting, unless it shall appear to the Presbytery, from the circumstances in which the Petition is offered, that the Erection of the said Chapel of Ease is unnecessary and inexpedient, they shall cite the Minister and Kirk-Session of the Parish, within which the Chapel is intended; and shall summon, by edictal citation, the Heritors of the Parish, and, if there is a Burgh in the Parish, the Magistrates of that Burgh, to attend the next Meeting of Presbytery, and to appear for their interest, in the subject of the Petition, if they shall  
“ see

“ see cause :—That such Presbytery, after having heard  
 “ the parties, shall sufficiently ascertain the circum-  
 “ stances on which the Petition is founded ;—the facts  
 “ stated as reasons for the necessity or expediency of  
 “ the Chapel intended ;—the general plan of the Cha-  
 “ pel itself ;—the estimate of the expence to be incur-  
 “ red in completing it ;—the scheme laid down for dis-  
 “ charging the debts, which it may be necessary to con-  
 “ tract ;—the plan on which it is proposed to dispose of  
 “ the collections to be made at the Chapel ;—the names  
 “ and designations of the persons in whom the pro-  
 “ perty is to be vested ;—the mode proposed for the  
 “ election of the Minister ;—the stipend to be provided  
 “ to him ;—and the security offered for the regular  
 “ payment of the stipend :—That such Presbytery shall  
 “ thereafter report the whole above-mentioned circum-  
 “ stances of the case, from their minutes, to the next  
 “ Meeting of the General Assembly ; and shall not pro-  
 “ nounce any final judgment on the petition, till they  
 “ shall have received the special directions of the As-  
 “ sembly thereon ; and that it shall be competent for  
 “ the petitioners, and for all parties having interest, to  
 “ be heard on the subject at the bar of the Assembly.”

—And at the same time the Assembly transmit to the Presbyteries of this Church the said Regulations, as an OVERTURE on which they are required to send up their opinions to the next Assembly. And the General Assembly ordain that separate copies of this Order and Overture be printed, and transmitted to the different Presbyteries.



## VI.

COMMISSION of the General Assembly,  
 to certain Ministers and Ruling Elders,  
 for discussing affairs referred to them.

*Edinburgh, May 27. 1797. Sess. 9.*

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do nominate, commission and appoint, the Reverend Dr JOHN ADAMSON, first Minister of St Andrew's their Moderator :

Moderator: And,—From the *Presbytery of Abertarph*, Mr Alexander Frazer at Kilmalie, Mr Thomas Ross at Kilmanivaig, *Ministers*:—From the *Presbytery of Sky*, Mr Martin Macpherson at Slate, Mr William Bethune at Duirnish, *Ministers*; The Right Honourable Lord Macdonald, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Uist*, Dr John Macleod at Harris, Mr Edmund Macqueen at Barra, *Ministers*; Hector Macdonald Buchanan, Esq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Lochcarron*, Mr John Macrae at Glenshiell, Mr Colin Maciver at Glenelg, *Ministers*; Bailie Daniel Millar, Canongate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Dornoch*, Mr George Macculloch at Loth, Mr Alexander Sage at Kildonan, *Ministers*; Robert Bruce Æneas Macleod of Cadboll, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Tongue*, Mr John Thompson at Diurness, Mr James Dingwall at Farr, *Ministers*; Mr William Maclean, merchant, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Caithness*, Mr Patrick Nicolson at Thurso, Mr William Smith at Bower, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Mackenzie junior, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Kirkwall*, Mr William Anderson at Evie and Rendall, Mr Robert Yule at Kirkwall, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Youngson, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Kirkwall*, Malcolm Laing, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery of Cairstone*, Mr Francis Liddell at Orphir, Mr John Malcolm at Firth and Stenness, *Ministers*:—From the *Presbytery of North Isles*, Mr George Barry at Shappinshaw, Mr Walter Traill at Lady Parish in Sanday, *Ministers*; John Grieve, Esq; one of the Commissioners of Excise, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Zetland*, Mr David Thompson at Walls, Mr John Menzies at Bressay, *Ministers*; Professor Andrew Dalzel, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Edinburgh*, Dr Henry Grieve, Dr Andrew Hunter, Dr William Greenfield, Dr George Baird, Mr James Oliver at Corstorphin, Mr James Dick at Currie, *Ministers*; Charles Kerr, Esq; Eldest Bailie of the city of Edinburgh, Donald Smith, Esq; banker in Edinburgh, Mr John Newton of Curriehill, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City of Edinburgh*, The Right Honourable Thomas Elder, Lord Provost of the city, Mr Francis Braidwood, Convener of the Trades:—From the *University of Edinburgh*, Mr James Finlayson, Professor of Logic in said University:—From the *Church of Camp-*

were, Mr James Likly, Minister at Campvere, Robert Allan, Esq; banker, Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Linlithgow*, Mr John Bertram at Muiravenside, Mr James Dobie at Linlithgow, Mr James Wilson at Falkirk, Mr David Ure at Uphall, *Ministers*; David Dundas of Duddingstone, Esq; Mr John Dunlop, Collector of the Customs, Borrowstounness, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Queensferry*, James Hopkirk, Esq; merchant in Glasgow:—From the *Presbytery* of *Biggar*, Mr Thomas Gray at Broughton, Mr Bryce Little at Covington, Mr William Watson at Biggar, *Ministers*; John Dickson, Esq; of Culter, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Peebles*, Mr Charles Findlater at Newlands, Mr Andrew Handyside at Lyne, *Ministers*; James Montgomery, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Peebles*, Thomas Cranstoun, Esq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dalkeith*, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr Alexander Colvill at Ormiston, Mr James Goldie at Temple, *Ministers*; The Right Honourable the Lord Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Haddington*, Mr Andrew Johnstone at Salton, Mr Peter Primrose at Prestonpans, Mr John Steele at Morham, *Ministers*; The Most Noble George Marquis of Tweeddale, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Haddington*, William Law of Elvingstone, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Burgh* of *North Berwick*, James Dalrymple, Esq; chief Magistrate of the said burgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunbar*, Mr John Martin at Spott, Mr Daniel Macqueen at Prestonkirk, *Ministers*; John Anderson, Esq; of Windygoul, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunfermline*, Mr Selby Ord at Longformacus, Mr Alexander Girvan at Langton, *Ministers*; Mathew Sandilands, Esq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Cburnside*, Mr George Todd at Eyemouth, Mr John Hastie at Edrom, *Ministers*; George Buchan of Kello, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kelso*, Mr Gavin Wallace at Nenthorn, Mr Cornelius Lundie at Kelso, *Ministers*; Sir James Pringle of Stichell, Bart. *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Jedburgh*, Dr Thomas Somerville at Jedburgh, Mr William Brown at Bedrule, Mr David Brown at Crailling, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Usher at Crawhill, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lauder*, Dr James Ford at Lauder, Mr Thomas Clegghorn at Smalholm, *Ministers*; Colonel John Pringle of Georgefield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Lauder*, The Right Hon. James Earl of Lauderdale:—From the

the *Presbytery* of *Selkirk*, Mr James Hay at Robertson, Mr John Scade at St Bothwells, *Ministers*; Mark Pringle, Esq; of Clifton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Selkirk*, Mr Alexander Cunningham, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Annan*, Mr William Hardie Moncrief at Annan, Mr Abraham Nivison at Middlebie, *Ministers*; Joseph Norris, Esq; of Newfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Annan*, Charles Hope, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Langholm*, Mr John Laurie at Ewis, Mr James Arkle at Castletoun, *Ministers*; Mr James Robertson, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lochmaben*, Mr David Dickson at St Mungo, Mr William Singer at Wamphry, Dr Andrew Brown at Lochmaben, *Ministers*; Mr William Tait, Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Lochmaben*, Mr William Johnston, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Penpont*, Mr William Rankine at Sanquhar, Mr John Yorftoun at Morton, *Ministers*; Mr Robert Edgar in Kirkland of Morton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dumfries*, Mr George Duncan at Lochrutton, Dr Bryce Johnstone at Holywood, Dr David Lamont at Kirkpatrick Durham, *Ministers*; Thomas Crichton, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkcudbright*, Dr Robert Muter at Kirkcudbright, Mr Robert Gordon at Carsfairn, Mr George Maxwell at Buittle, *Ministers*; James Gordon, younger of Culvenan, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *New Galloway*, Mr Robert Heron, Preacher of the Gospel:—From the *Burgh* of *Wigton*, Mr John Jeffray, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Burgh* of *Whitborn*, John Bushby, Esq; Sheriff-clerk of *Dumfries*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Stranraer*, Mr Peter Ferguson at Inch, Dr Anthony Stewart at Newluce, *Ministers*; Thomas Adair, Esq; of Genoch, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Stranraer*, Thomas Smith, Esq; one of the principal clerks to the bills:—From the *Presbytery* of *Ayr*, Mr John Ramsay at Kirkmichael, Mr George Gordon at Sorn, Mr William Crawford at Straiton, Mr William Ritchie at Tarbolton, Mr William Reid at New Cumnock, *Ministers*; Lord Glenlee, Thomas Kennedy, Esq; of Dunure, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Ayr*, George Fergusson, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Irvine*, Dr James Woodrow at Stevenston, Dr George Laurie at Loudon, Mr John Robertson at Kilmarnock, *Ministers*; The Honourable Patrick Boyle of Shewalton, *Ruling Elder*:—  
From

From the *Burgh of Irvine*, David Boyle, Esq; Advocate :—From the *Presbytery of Paisley*, Mr John Forrest at Port-Glasgow, Mr Thomas Burns at Renfrew, Mr James Mylne at the Abbey Church, Mr Patrick Maxwell at Kilbarchan, *Ministers*; Thomas King, Esq; younger of Drums, Mr Robert Barclay, late one of the Bailies of Paisley, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Presbytery of Hamilton*, Mr John Risk at Dalserf, Mr Robert Clason at Dalziel, Mr James French at Kilbride, *Ministers*; Professor George Jardine, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Lanark*, Mr James Hall at Lesmahagow, Mr John Wilson at Lesmahagow, *Ministers*; James Millar, Esq; of Halhill, Advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Glasgow*, Dr William Porteous at Glasgow, Mr John Lockhart at Glasgow, Mr James Lapllie at Campsie, Mr Adam Forman at Carmunnock, *Ministers*; Sir John Stirling of Glorat, Bart. Mr Andrew Paton, merchant in Glasgow, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *City of Glasgow*, Archibald Campbell, Esq; Advocate, younger of Clathick :—From the *University of Glasgow*, Professor John Young :—From the *Presbytery of Dumbarton*, Mr James Couper at Badernock, Mr Gavin Gibb at Strathblane, Mr James Jeffrey at Balfron, *Ministers*; The Right Honourable Lord President, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Dumbarton*, Archibald Campbell, Esq; younger of Succoth, Advocate :—From the *Presbytery of Dunoon*, Mr Dugald Macdougall at Lochgoilhead, Mr Hugh MacTavish at Inverchaolan, *Ministers*; John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Rothsay*, William Macleod Bannatyne, Esq; of Kames :—From the *Presbytery of Kintyre*, Dr John Smith at Campbelton, Mr William Smith at Gigha, Mr Donald Campbell at Southend, *Ministers* :—Mr Donald Campbell, Preaching Catechist at Lochranfay, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Campbelton*, William Campbell of Fairfield, Esq; Advocate :—From the *Burgh of Inverary*, Humphry Trafford Campbell, Esq; younger of Ashnith :—From the *Presbytery of Lorn*, Mr John Macfarlane at Kilbrandan, Mr George Campbell at Ardchattan, *Ministers*; John Campbell, Esq; of Lochend, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Mull*, Mr Norman Macleod at Morvern, Mr Alexander Campbell at Ardnamurchan, *Ministers*; James Maxwell, Esq; Chamberlain of Mull, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Dunkeld*, Mr William Innerarity at Caputh, Mr Archibald Menzies at Dull, Mr Colin Macvean at Kenmore, Mr Alexander



Alexander Niven at Dunkeld, *Ministers*; David Stewart, Esq; merchant in Leith, Mr John Macritchie, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Pertb*, Mr David Dow *senior*, at Dron, Mr William Taylor at Rhynd, Mr William Duncan at Abernethy, Mr John Duff at Kinfauns, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Beatson, writer to the Signet, Bailie James Dickson, Bookseller, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Stirling*, Mr James Somerville at Stirling, Mr John Caw at Bothkenner, *Ministers*; William Murray, Esq; of Touchadam, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Auchterarder*, Mr John Stevenson at Blackford, Mr Andrew Gibson at Muchart, Mr John Brown at Glendovan, *Ministers*; Patrick Murray younger of Auchtertyre, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunblane*, Mr James Wright at Logie, Mr Alexander Stirling at Tillicoultry, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Bonnar, Banker in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunfermline*, Mr John Scott at Dalgety, Mr William Forfar at Salin, Mr William Bryce at Aberdour, *Ministers*; Sir Charles Preston of Valayfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkcaldy*, Mr James Reid at Kinglassie, Mr John Usher at Kinghorn, Mr Andrew Murray at Auchterderran, *Ministers*; Alexander Park, Esq; of Lochore, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Bruntisland*, George Ledingham, Esq; Provost of Bruntisland:—From the *Presbytery* of *Cupar*, Mr Andrew Walker at Coleffie, Mr Andrew Ireland at Monzie, Mr William Gourlay at Flisk, Mr Peter Barclay at Kettle, *Ministers*; George Greenlaw, Esq; of Hilton, Mr John Reid in Dairfie, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of *St Andrew's*, Mr James Burn at Forgan, Mr James Nairne at Pittenweem, Mr James Thomson at Kingsbarns, *Ministers*; Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Monypenny of Pitmilly, William Dalgleish, Esq; *junior* of Scotsraig, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *St Andrew's*, Joseph Maccormick, Esq; Advocate:—From the *University* of *St Andrew's*, Dr George Hill, Principal of St Mary's College:—From the *Burgh* of *Craill*, Mr Thomas Weir, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Burgh* of *Anstruther Easter*, Mr Thomas Adamson, late Chaplain to the 4th fencible regiment:—From the *Presbytery* of *Meigle*, Mr Charles Keay at Cupar Angus, Mr William Haldane at Glenisla, Mr James Johnston at Blairgowrie, *Ministers*; Sir William Ramsay of Banff, Baronet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Forfar*, Mr William Ramsay at

Cortachy, Mr John Buist at Tannadice, *Ministers*; Professor Henry David Hill, St Andrew's, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Forfar*, Robert Graham of Fintry, Esq;:—From the *Presbytery of Dundee*, Mr James Scott at Auchterhouse, Mr Thomas Constable at Liff, Mr William Johnston at Monifeith, *Ministers*; George Paterson, Esq; of Castlehuntly, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Dundee*, James L'Amy, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery of Aberbrothock*, Mr John Aitken at St Vigeans, Mr William Milligan at Kirkden, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Milne, merchant, Canongate, *Ruling Elder*: From the *Presbytery of Brechin*, Mr John Bisset at Brechin, Mr John Pirie at Lochlie, Mr Andrew Hutton, at Edzell, *Ministers*; James Wauchope, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Brechin*, Adam Gillies, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery of Fordoun*, Mr Robert Croll at Bervie, Mr James Leslie at Fordoun, Mr George Cook at Laurencekirk, *Ministers*; John Burnett, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Aberdeen*, Dr David Cruden at Nigg, Mr Skene Ogilvy at Old Machar, Dr James Frazer at Dalmoack, Mr Alexander Simpson at Old Machar, *Ministers*; William Robertson, Esq; Advocate, Procurator for the Church, John Gordon, Esq; of Craig, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *King's College, Aberdeen*, Mr Roderick Macleod Sub-Principal:—From the *Marishall College, Aberdeen*, Dr Robert Hamilton, Professor of Philosophy in that University:—From the *Presbytery of Kincardine O'Neal*, Mr Alexander Henderson at Echt, Mr Alexander Robertson at Coull, Mr Joseph Smith at Birse, *Ministers*; William Macdonald, Esq; of Reneaton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Alford*, Mr John Harper at Kildrummy, Mr Benjamin Mercer at Forbes and Kearn, Mr John Gordon at Cabrach, *Ministers*; James Gordon, younger of Craig, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Ellon*, Mr John Rose at Udny, Mr George Pirie at Slains, *Ministers*:—Professor Hugh Macleod, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Garioch*, Mr John Shand at Chapel Garioch, Mr Alexander Cuthnie at Oyne, Mr George Daun at Inch, *Ministers*; William Gordon, Esq; younger of Rothny, *Ruling Elder*: From the *Presbytery of Turriff*, Mr Robert Duff at King Edward, Mr Laurence Moyes at Forglen, *Ministers*; Mr Archibald Milne, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Fordyce*, Mr Walter Chalmers at Deskford, Mr George Donaldson at Ruthven,

Ruthven, *Ministers*; Mr George Andrew, writer, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of Banff, George Cranstoun, Esq; of Dewar:—From the *Presbytery* of Strathbogie, Mr James Maclean at Keith, Mr John Findlater at Glas, *Ministers*; Baron Gordon, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Aberlour, Mr Cruickshank at Rother, Mr William Spence at Inveraven, *Ministers*; The Honourable Arthur Duff of Orton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Abernethy, Mr John Grant at Abernethy, Mr John Gordon at Alvie, *Ministers*; Dr Gregory Grant, Physician in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Elgin, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr Lewis Gordon at Drainie, *Ministers*; The most Noble the Marquis of Huntly, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Forres, Mr William Stephen at Rafford, Mr Richard Rose at Dallas, *Ministers*; George Cumin, Esq; of Relugas, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Nairn, Mr John Morison at Nairn, Mr John Paterfon at Auldearn, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Grant, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of Nairn, Mr Francis Nicol, Preacher of the Gospel:—From the *Presbytery* of Chanonry, Mr Alexander Wood at Rosemarky, Mr James Smith at Avoch, *Ministers*; Convener John Lindsay, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Tain, Mr Andrew Gallie at Kincardine, Mr Thomas Urquhart at Rosekeen, *Ministers*; Charles Ross, Esq of Craigs, Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Dingwall, Mr Angus Bethune at Alness, Mr Daniel Rose at Dingwall, *Ministers*; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*: And the General Assembly added thereto Dr James Macknight, one of the Ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator: and also from the *Burgh* of Rutherglen, Mr James Davidson, writer to the Signet, whose commission had been rejected on account of informality; TO BE COMMISSIONERS of this General Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener, when and where they shall think fit and convenient,

that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been some time the practice, but shall allow the same to lie over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th act of the Assembly One thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.



## VII.

**COMMISSION to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that End.**

*Edinburgh, May 27. Sess. 9.*

**T**HE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr JOHN ADAMSON, first Minister of St Andrew's, their Moderator, all the ministers who are members of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Frazer, Mr Martin Macpherson, Dr John Macleod, Mr John Macrae, Mr George Macculloch, Mr James Dingwall, Mr Patrick Nicolson, Mr William Anderson at Evie, Mr Francis Liddell, Mr George Barry, Mr John Menzies, Mr John Bertram, Mr Bryce Little, Mr Charles Findlater, Dr Alexander Carlyle, Mr Andrew Johnston, Mr Daniel Macqueen, Mr Selby Ord, Mr George Todd, Dr Thomas Somerville, Dr

Dr James Ford, Mr Abraham Nevison, Mr William Singer, Dr Bryce Johnston, Mr Peter Fergusson, Mr John Ramsay, Dr James Woodrow, Mr John Forrest, Mr John Risk, Mr James Hall, Mr James Lapslie, Mr James Couper, Mr Dugald Macdougall, Dr John Smith, Mr John Macfarlane, Mr Norman Macleod, Mr William Inverarity, Mr David Dow, Mr James Somerville, Mr John Stevenson, Mr James Wright, Mr John Scott, Mr James Reid, Mr Andrew Walker, Mr James Nairn, Principal Hill, Mr Charles Keay, Mr John Buist, Mr James Scott, Mr William Milligan, Mr John Bisset, Mr George Cook, Mr Skene Ogilvy, Mr Alexander Henderson, Mr John Harper, Mr John Rose, Mr John Shand, Mr Robert Duff, Mr Walter Chalmers, Mr James Maclean, Mr George Cruickshank, Mr John Grant, Mr William Gordon, Mr William Stephen, Mr John Morison, Mr Alexander Wood, Mr Andrew Gallie, Mr Angus Bethune, Mr Daniel Rose, Dr Macleod at Harris, Mr William Fraser, Gigha, *Ministers*; Mr Hector Macdonald Buchanan, Bailie Daniel Miller, Mr William Maclean, Mr Alexander Mackenzie, Mr Alexander Youngson, Charles Hope, Esq; Commissioner Grieve, Professor Dalziel, Charles Kerr, Esq; Donald Smith, Esq; The Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Convener Braidwood, John Dickson, Esq; James Montgomery, Esq; Mr Thomas Cranston, The Lord Advocate, Mr Mathew Sandilands, Mr Joseph Norris, Mr James Robertson, William Tait, Esq; Mr William Johnston, Mr Robert Heron, John Bushby, Esq; Mr Thomas Adair, Mr Thomas Smith, Lord Glenlee, George Fergusson, Esq; David Boyle, Esq; Archibald Campbell, Esq; of Clathick, The Right Honourable the Lord President, Archibald Campbell, Esq; younger of Succoth, William Campbell of Fairfield, Esq; David Stewart, Esq; Mr John Macritchie, Mr Alexander Beatson, Bailie James Dickson, William Murray, Esq; Mr Alexander Bonar, William Dalgliesh, Esq; Joseph McCormick, Esq; Mr Thomas Weir, Sir William Ramsay, Baronet; James L'Amy, Esq; Mr Thomas Miln, Merchant, Adam Gillies, Esq; John Burnet, Esq; The Procurator, Dr Robert Hamilton, Mr William Macdonald, James Gordon, Esq; younger of Craig, Professor Hugh Macleod, William Gordon, Esq; Mr Archibald Milne, Mr George Andrew, George Cranston, Esq; Mr Baron Gordon, Dr Gregory Grant, The Marquis of Huntly, Mr George Cumin, Mr Alexander Grant, Convener John Lindsay, Charles

Charles Ross, Esq; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, William Law of Elvingston, Esq; Sir John Stirling, *Ruling Elders*; TO BE A COMMITTEE of this Assembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty for these ends, according to, and in terms of his Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to his Majesty's design, expressed in His warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation; prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee to have a particular regard, in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent

frequent Assemblies; and to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their registers the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations, of the several Missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said Missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning Missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the Missionaries, except upon receipts from the Missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, that they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts; and that every Catechist, who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners, or gentlemen of the district, shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to the Cashier, a declaration, that he has received the particular sum specified; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall, in like manner, bear, that the Catechist has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no such declaration of the Catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the Cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the Catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty: That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the Missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to

any concerned, who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named, as Members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be Ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of Missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be Ministers; and the said Committee are appointed to have their first general meeting at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of the first of the stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly; their second meeting (which is for fixing the annual scheme) upon the second Thursday of July, with power to those Members who shall then be present, to adjourn; and their other two general meetings the first lawful days after the stated meetings of the Commission of the General Assembly, in November and March, within the Assembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the Commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the same, as he shall be directed and ordered by the foresaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of His Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of

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at least fourteen, whereof nine to be Ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lie on the table till another meeting; and, in the mean time, the person complained of, and the Presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just account of the matter against the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly scheme of Missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their answer to these letters, at farthest, with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot complete it, they shall name a sub-committee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And empowered the Committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said Committee, in making up the scheme of Missionaries, &c. do not exceed the sum in the grant.



## VIII.

Edinburgh, May, 29. 1797. *Seff. ult.*

*THE Report of the Committee appointed to class returns to Overtures was called for, given in, and read.—The Assembly ordered the Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers to be re-transmitted; with a renewal of the Recommendation to such Presbyteries as have sent no Returns, to send them without further delay.*

### New Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers.

Edinburgh, May 25. 1792. *Seff. 8.*

**T**HE General Assembly having taken under their serious consideration, the great danger to which the interests of Religion and of this Church may be exposed, by licensing any to preach the Gospel who are not duly qualified for that important trust, do hereby enact and ordain, That in all time coming the following regulations shall be strictly observed :

I. It is hereby enacted, That no Student shall be entered upon the Roll of any Professor of Divinity, unless he shall produce to the said Professor a certificate from the Minister of the parish in which he has his usual residence ; or in his absence, or during a vacancy in said parish, from some neighbouring Minister, bearing, that his character is suitable to his views ; together with a diploma of Master of Arts, or certificates from the several Professors of Philosophy, under whom he hath studied, from which it may be clearly ascertained that, in some University or Universities, he hath gone through a full course of Philosophy, in some winter-sessions of  
College

College preceding that in which the certificates are produced.

II. The General Assembly do likewise hereby ordain, That all Students who have been inrolled by Professors of Divinity, in the manner prescribed by this act, shall continue to prosecute the study of Divinity for the term of six Sessions: Provided always, That if any Student hath given regular attendance in the Divinity Hall during three Sessions, his Course shall be considered as completed in four Sessions; and that if he hath given regular attendance in the Hall during two Sessions, his Course shall be considered as completed in five Sessions. And the Assembly do further ordain, That in each of these cases, Students shall be inrolled by the Professors during the several Sessions of their respective Courses, and deliver in the Divinity Hall, in the manner herein afterwards provided, an Exegetis in Latin, on some controverted Head in Divinity, a Homily in English, an Exercise and Addition, a Lecture on some large portion of Scripture, and a popular Sermon, together with such other exercises as the Professors shall think proper to prescribe. And the Assembly further enact and declare, That a Student is entitled to apply to the Professor for his certificates, that he may be proposed for trials, and that the preliminary steps may be taken by the Presbytery during the currency of the last Session of his Course, as above described; with this limitation, that if the said last Session is to be claimed as a Session of regular attendance, he shall, toward the conclusion thereof, obtain a new certificate of his attendance during its currency, and produce the same to the Presbytery or Synod.

III. Professors of Divinity are required to attend, as much as circumstances may permit, to the conduct of such Students as are under their care, and, as far as they find it practicable, to insist that every Student shall deliver his first Discourse some time during his second Session, at the latest, and the remainder of his Discourses at such periods as may enable him to deliver the whole of them before the end of January of the last Session of his Course.

IV. When a Student is proposed to any Presbytery, in order to be taken upon trials, the Presbytery shall be  
H alone,

alone, and the motion for that purpose shall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting. In the mean time, the Presbytery shall appoint the Member by whom the Student has been proposed, to lay before the said meeting the certificate or certificates in favour of the Student, that are specified in the third paragraph of the fifth section of this act; to desire him to attend the same; and to inform him, that, previously to the meeting, he ought, as far as circumstances may permit, to wait on such Ministers of the Presbytery as have not formerly had an opportunity of conversing with him in private.

V. When the time appointed for considering the motion is arrived, the Presbytery shall strictly observe the following regulations.

1<sup>st</sup>, The Presbytery shall be alone, while they are employed in discussing the several preliminaries respecting Students who are proposed for trials.

2<sup>d</sup>, They shall require satisfying evidence, that every Student who is proposed for that purpose has completed the twenty-first year of his age.

3<sup>d</sup>, No Student shall be admitted to trials, unless he produces to the Presbytery a certificate or certificates from the Professor or Professors of Divinity, under whose tuition he hath studied, bearing, that he hath prosecuted his studies, and delivered his Discourses, in the manner prescribed by this act; and that his conduct, as far as consists with the knowledge of the said Professor, or Professors, has been in every respect suitable to his views in life. And the General Assembly do likewise hereby enact, That the Presbytery shall record at full length the said certificate, or certificates, in their minutes: And it is hereby enacted and declared, That the Student having lodged such certificate or certificates, shall be entitled to obtain extracts of the same, if demanded.

4<sup>th</sup>, No Presbytery shall receive any Student upon trials, unless they are satisfied that he is of good report; sound in his principles; pious, sober, grave, and prudent, in his behaviour; of a peaceable disposition; and well affected to the happy establishment in this kingdom, both in Church and State. And, that the Presbytery may proceed with all due caution, in a matter of such peculiar importance, they shall not agree to the motion in behalf of the Student, unless his residence, during the year

year preceding, has been chiefly within their bounds, or he shall produce sufficient testimonials from the Presbytery, in whose bounds his residence has chiefly been during that term, bearing, that his character is such as is described in the immediately preceding sentence of this paragraph, and recommending him, in these respects, to the Presbytery before whom the proposal is made, as a proper person to be entered upon trials.

5th, The Presbytery shall not agree to the motion in favour of the Student, unless they are satisfied that he has made a competent degree of proficiency in those several branches of knowledge which are necessary to enable him to be an useful Preacher of the Gospel. And the General Assembly ordain, that the Presbytery, in order to procure full information in this respect, shall examine the Student strictly, and privately, on his knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, and of Philosophy and Theology.

6th, If after these preliminary steps have been taken, the Presbytery shall be of opinion that the Student is duly qualified in these several particulars, they shall record this opinion in their minutes, and order their clerk to write letters to the several Presbyteries within the bounds of the Provincial Synod, two kalendar months at least before the meeting of the same, informing them of the Presbytery's intention to take the Student upon Public Trials, and bearing, that the certificate, or certificates in his favour, which are required by this act, have been regularly laid before them. But it is hereby provided, That within the bounds of such Synods as meet only once a-year, a Student may be entitled to have these circular letters written half a-year sooner than would be otherwise competent.

VI. The General Assembly do likewise hereby enact and declare, That, at the request of the Student, it shall be competent to any Presbytery to transfer the receiving of the Public Trials, or any part thereof, certifying to the Presbytery to which the transference is to be made, that the various preliminary steps have been taken according to the directions of this act; and that such parts of the public and private trials as have been already gone through, have been received with approbation.

VII. If a Student hath studied, either in whole or in part, in Protestant Universities which are not within the bounds of this Church, he shall, when he is proposed to any Presbytery for trials, be required to produce satisfying testimonials from the Professors of Divinity in said Universities; and the time which these Professors shall certify to have been employed by him in studying Divinity under their tuition, shall be computed in the same manner as if he had prosecuted his studies in any of the Universities within the bounds of this Church. But it is hereby provided, That no Student, in such circumstances, shall be admitted even to those private trials which are appointed to be taken before the writing of the circular letters, sooner than six kalendar months after his arrival in Scotland.

VIII. The General Assembly ordain, That, if a Presbytery propose to take a Student upon public trials, and have, with that view, written the circular letters, as is herein required, public intimation thereof shall be made at some diet of the next meeting of the Provincial Synod, which shall not be the last diet thereof: And the Presbytery clerk is hereby required to transmit to the Synod clerk an extract of the certificate or certificates laid before the Presbytery in favour of the Student, in order that the same may be produced at this diet of the Synod. And it is likewise hereby ordained, That at some subsequent diet of the Synod, particular inquiry shall be made, whether any of the Members of the Court has any objection to offer against the Student being entered upon Public Trials: And that the Synod then, taking into consideration the extract produced, and the whole of the case, shall judge of the expediency of allowing the Presbytery to admit the Student on trials: Or if, in any case, the Presbytery clerk shall fail to transmit the extracts of the certificates above mentioned, the Student may produce to the Synod, by himself, or by any Member of the Court, the extract of the same, which by this act he is entitled to obtain.

IX. If the Synod shall allow the Student to be taken upon Public Trials, the Presbytery shall proceed therein with all convenient speed; and the Assembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the Student, and in the order herein mentioned: 1<sup>st</sup>, Catechetic trials on Divinity, Chronology, and Church History; 2<sup>d</sup>, A trial on the

the Hebrew and Greek languages; 3*d*, An Exegetis in Latin on some controverted Head in Divinity; 4*th*, A Homily in English; 5*th*, An Exercise and Addition; 6*th*, A Lecture on some large portion of Scripture; 7*th*, A popular Sermon; it being understood, that if the Presbytery see cause, they may examine the Student upon the subject of these several Discourses.

X. The Student having gone through the several trials, which are mentioned in the immediately preceding section of this act, the Presbytery are ordained to proceed in the following order.

1*st*, They shall, deliberately and seriously, take a conjunct view of the whole trials; and if they shall be of opinion, that the Student is not properly qualified to perform the duties incumbent upon a Preacher of the Gospel, they shall by no means grant him a License in his present circumstances.

2*d*, If, upon this review of the trials, the Presbytery are fully satisfied therewith, they shall record this opinion in their minutes.

3*d*, The Presbytery shall then propose to the Student the questions that are appointed to be put to all who pass Trials by act 10*th*, Assembly 1711, and require him to subscribe the *Formula* which is prescribed by the said act. And the General Assembly strictly prohibit all Presbyteries from licensing any Student to preach the Gospel, who shall not give explicit and satisfying answers to these questions, and subscribe the said *Formula*.

4*th*, The Presbytery shall order the act of Assembly 1759, against Simoniackal practices, to be read to the Student in their presence.

Lastly, The Presbytery shall appoint their Moderator to license the Student to preach the Gospel, and order their Clerk to furnish him with an extract of his license.

XI. For the better observance of this act, the General Assembly ordain, 1*st*, That it shall be printed among their other printed acts; 2*d*, That it shall be printed by itself, in some convenient form; 3*d*, That a copy of this separate edition shall be transmitted to each Professor of Divinity in the Universities of Scotland; and that the said Professors shall read the same in their respective Halls, once at least during every Session, and at

such times as they have reason to expect the attendance of the greatest number of Students for that Session; and, *lastly*, That a copy of the same edition shall likewise be transmitted to the Clerks of each Synod and Presbytery, within the bounds of this Church, and that the said Clerks shall keep the same along with their minutes, and bring it up to each meeting of their respective Courts, for the use of the Members.



## IX.

### Overture respecting the attendance of Students on the Divinity Hall.

*Edinburgh, May 29. 1797. Sess. ult.*

**T**HE Committee on the Overture from the Synod of Aberdeen, respecting the attendance of Students on the Divinity Halls, having maturely deliberated on the said Overture, Report to the Venerable Assembly, That, in their opinion, it ought to be expressed in the following terms, *viz.* “ It is Overtured, that Students “ in Divinity, who purpose to prosecute their studies “ for six Sessions, should be required to give as much “ partial attendance, during the currency of those Sessions, in the Divinity Halls which they respectively “ attend, as shall, in the whole, amount to six months.”

The General Assembly approved of the above report, and ordered the same to be transmitted, as an Overture, for the consideration of Presbyteries.





X.

Act appointing the Diet of the next  
General Assembly.

*Edinburgh, 29th May 1797. Sess. ult.*

**T**HE next GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 17th day of May 1798.

*Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by*

ANDREW DALZEL, *Gl. Eccl. Scot.*

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# ABRIDGMENT

## OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the CHURCH of SCOTLAND, held at Edinburgh in the Year 1797, which are not printed at full length.

*Thursday, May 18. 1797. Sess. I.*

**A**FTER Sermon by the Reverend Dr WILLIAM GREENFIELD, one of the Ministers of the City, and Professor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres in the University, of Edinburgh, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders convened in the Assembly-house in the usual manner: And after Prayer by the said Dr William Greenfield, the Reverend Dr JOHN ADAMSON, first Minister of St Andrew's, being unanimously chosen Moderator, he, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The KING's Commission to the Right Honourable DAVID Earl of LEVEN and MELVILLE, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person, read, and ordered to be recorded. See Printed Acts, No. I.

The KING's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, read, and ordered to be recorded. and No. II.

The Commissioner's Speech at opening the Assembly, and the Moderator's Speech in return thereto.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

A Committee named for revising the Commissions to the Members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof, naming Ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, and receiving Lists of Probationers in the several Presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

A Committee for Overtures named.

A Committee for Bills, References, and Appeals, named.  
Adjournment.

*Friday, May 19. 1797. Sess. 2.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

A diet spent in Prayer.

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## ABRIDGMENT, 1797.

Act VII. of the Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of the business of the Assembly, read, and the observation thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to Preach before his Grace the Commissioner.

The Committee for revising Commissions appointed to meet.

The Committees for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Saturday, May 20. 1797. Sess. 3.

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

See Printed  
Acts, No. III.

The draught of the Answer to the King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly being brought in and approved, his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertook to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The Report of the Committee for Overtures was given in and read.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Abernethy, That the Commissioner, Dr Gregory Grant, is not designed "Ruling Elder." The Assembly, in respect that the words *Ruling Elder* are found in one part of the Commission, though omitted in the other, did, without a vote, repel the objection.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Brechin, "That the Elder is said to have signed the Formula prescribed by the 11th Act of Assembly 1794, instead of "1694." The Assembly approve of the Report of the Committee, and delay the consideration of said Objection till the Commissioner appear to claim his seat in the Assembly.

It was objected to the Commission from the Presbytery of Auchterarder, "That the Election was held on the 2d of May, "which is within the forty days, and the resolution to Elect "is on the 4th of April." A Member of the said Presbytery having stated, that the above dates are erroneous, and that it was consistent with his knowledge that the Election was actually made on the first Tuesday of April last, and that the resolution to Elect was entered into the Minutes of the said Presbytery on the first Tuesday of February last; the Assembly agreed, without a vote, to delay the farther consideration of this case till the Record of the Presbytery of Auchterarder be laid upon the table of the Assembly; it being understood that the Commissioners, named in the said Commission, shall not be entitled, in the mean time, to sit and vote in this Assembly.

It was objected to the Commission from the Burgh of Rutherglen, "That the Election was held on the 6th of April, the "resolution to Elect being on the 1st of April, which is not "ten free days intervening." The Assembly approved of the Report of the Committee, and sustained the Objection.

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## ABRIDGMENT, 1797.

It was objected to the Commission from the Burgh of Annan, "That John Foot, the person signing the same, is designed *Depute* instead of *Clerk*." The Assembly delay the consideration of this objection till the Commissioner appear to claim his seat in this Assembly.

The roll of causes transmitted by the Committee for Bills was called for, produced, and read.

The Assembly agreed to take up the cause from the Presbytery of Penpont on Monday, and the cause of Mr Butter of Leithindy on Tuesday.

The Committee for Overtures was appointed to meet this evening, and empowered to receive from the several Members any instructions given to them by the respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures thereon to the Assembly; and to receive and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and Superstition, and prepare Overtures for preventing and suppressing thereof.

The Committee for Bills was appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

*Monday, May 22. 1797. Sess. 4.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

In consequence of the Assembly's judgment of Saturday, respecting the Commission from the Presbytery of Auchterarder, the Minute-book of the said Presbytery was produced by the Clerk thereof; and that part of the same respecting the Election in question was read, from which it appeared that the said Election was made on the 4th of April last, and the resolution to Elect was entered in the Minutes on the 7th of February last: The Assembly, therefore, ordered the names of the Commissioners from the Presbytery of Auchterarder to be added to the roll of this Assembly.

Agreed to take up on Wednesday the Petition from the Presbytery of Aberbrothock respecting a Chapel of Ease.

Report of the Committee for Overtures given in, and read.

Report of the Committee for Bills given in, and read.

Agreed to take up the Petition from the Presbytery of Perth on Wednesday, and the Petition respecting the Norriston fund on Friday.

Synod Books called for.

A Committee was named to revise the actings and proceedings of the Commission of last General Assembly. And,

A Committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the Committee appointed by last Assembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

A Committee was named to audite the accounts of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, and other public accounts, consider

## ABRIDGMENT, 1797.

consider the state of the Church's public money, and prepare Overtures about the same.

A reference from the Presbytery of Penpont, respecting a presentation in favour of Mr John Nivison, Preacher of the Gospel to the Parish and Church of Penpont, heard: The Assembly find, That the Heritors of the Parish of Penpont were not entitled to appear before the Presbytery to object against the presentation; and remit the cause to the Presbytery of Penpont, with an advice to proceed in the settlement of Mr Nivison with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church.

The Committees for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.  
Adjournment.

*Tuesday, May 23. 1797. Sess. 5.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

An Address to his Majesty on the Marriage of the PRINCESS ROYAL of Great Britain with his Serene Highness the Hereditary PRINCE of WURTEMBERG, unanimously agreed to, and a Committee appointed to prepare the same.

The Report of the Committee for Overtures called for, given in, and read.

An appeal at the instance of Mr Laurence Butter, Minister of Lethindy, from a sentence of the Synod of Perth and Stirling, heard. In respect it was judicially stated by the Presbytery of Dunkeld, that the libel with which they resolved to serve Mr Butter did not proceed upon a *fama clamosa*, the Assembly reverse the sentences of the Presbytery of Dunkeld, and Synod of Perth and Stirling, appealed from, and remit the cause to the Presbytery of Dunkeld, to proceed in the accusation of Mr Butter, if they shall see cause, according to the rules of the Church.

Adjournment.

*Wednesday, May 24. 1797. Sess. 6.*

*Sederunt.*

See Printed  
Acts, No. IV.

The draught of an Address to his Majesty on the Marriage of the PRINCESS ROYAL of Great Britain with his Serene Highness the Hereditary PRINCE of WURTEMBERG, was brought in, and approved. His Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertook to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The Committee on public accounts appointed to meet.

The Assembly heard read Minutes of the Presbytery of Aberbrothock respecting a Chapel of Ease. The Assembly approve of the conduct of the Presbytery in laying before the Assembly their procedure respecting the establishment of a Chapel of Ease in the town of Aberbrothock, in conformity to the order of last Assembly: And the Assembly, after long reasoning, proceeded to the consideration of the regulations respecting the said Chapel of Ease, which, in obedience to that order,

ABRIDGMENT, 1797.

order, were submitted by the said Presbytery to the judgment of the Assembly. The Assembly, after the said regulations were read, having heard a Member of the Presbytery of Aberbrothock in explanation thereof, were satisfied of the necessity and expediency of the Chapel intended. The regulations, with the objections thereto, were then read over again, one by one, and particularly considered by the Assembly; and the Assembly having made some alterations thereon, authorise and instruct the Presbytery of Aberbrothock to grant the desire of the Petition, by erecting the Chapel of Ease in question, according to the regulations adopted.

The Petitions from the Presbytery of Perth delayed till to-morrow.

Adjournment.

*Thursday, May 25. 1797. Sess. 7.*

*Sederunt.*

The public accounts produced, and ordered to lie on the table. The Assembly heard a Petition for Mr James Scott, Minister of Perth, and others, complaining of a sentence of the Presbytery of Perth, refusing to transmit to this Assembly the opinion which the said Presbytery had delivered on the 28th September last, concerning the Overture respecting Chapels of Ease. The Assembly disapproved of the conduct of the Presbytery of Perth in refusing to transmit said opinion; and appointed the said report to be added to the reports on the said Overture now before the Assembly.

The Committee for Overtures appointed to meet.

The Assembly agreed to resolve themselves into a Committee of the whole House, to consider the returns of Presbyteries to the Overture respecting Chapels of Ease.

Adjournment.

*Friday, May 26. 1797. Sess. 8.*

*Sederunt.*

The report of the Committee of the whole House on the Regulations and Overture respecting Chapels of Ease, called for, given in, and read. The Assembly approve of the report, and re-enact and re-transmit the said Regulations and Overture; and ordain that separate copies of the same be printed and transmitted to the different Presbyteries, enjoining such Presbyteries as have sent no returns to send up their opinions to next Assembly. From which decision several Members entered their dissents.

Upon a motion, the Assembly unanimously recommend to the Presbyteries of this Church, that when they are to take into consideration any Overture transmitted to them by the General Assembly, they shall, at a previous ordinary meeting of Presbytery, appoint the particular day on which they are to consider such Overture.

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See Printed  
Acts, No. V.

ABRIDGMENT, 1797.

The report of the Committee of Overtures given in, and read.  
The report of the Trustees of the fund established by Act of Parliament for a provision to Ministers Widows, &c. containing an account of their proceedings since last General Assembly, and a state of the fund under their management, given in, and ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow: And upon a motion, the thanks of the House were given from the Chair to Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood, for his fidelity, attention, and prudence, in the management of the fund; and particularly for the accurate and useful information contained in his letter lately addressed to the contributors of the fund.

A Petition for Mr John Campbell, Minister of Kippen, complaining of a sentence of the Presbytery of Dunblane, finding that the Elders had no right to vote for a Factor on the Norriston fund, heard. The Assembly reversed the sentence of the Presbytery of Dunblane, and found, that the Commission by the General Assembly for the management of the Norriston fund was given to the Presbytery of Dunblane, including both Ministers and Elders.

Agreed to consider the Overture from the Synod of Aberdeen, and the other Overtures to-morrow.

Upon a motion, the Committee of Bills appointed to meet.  
Adjournment.

*Saturday, May 27. 1797. Sess. 9.*

*Sederunt.*

The Report of the Committee of Bills called for, given in, and read.

The Report of the Visitors of the Commission record called for; the Commissioners' conduct approved of; thanks given to the Moderator of the Commission, and their Book ordered to be attested.

The Report of the Committee for naming Members of the Commission of this Assembly, and preparing instructions to them, given in, and approved. The Assembly added thereto Dr James Macknight, one of the Ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator; and also from the Burgh of Rutherglen, Mr James Davidson, writer to the Signet, whose commission had been rejected, on account of informality, by the Assembly.

The Report of the Visitors of the Royal Bounty record given in, and read. The conduct of the Managers approved of, and their Book ordered to be attested.

See Printed  
Acts, No. VI.

— VII. A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a Commission and instructions to them.

The Synod Books of Lothian and Tweeddale, of Fife, and of Glasgow and Ayr, ordered to be attested.

The Report of the Trustees of the fund established by Act of Parliament for a provision to Ministers Widows, &c. again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register kept for that purpose.

The



*ABRIDGMENT, 1797.*

- The Committee on the Enzie fund renewed with the former powers; and the Assembly added thereto Mr James Lapslie.
- Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him and his cautioners of the sum of L. 553 : 10 : 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  Sterling, disbursed by him, and appointing that he give credit in his next account for the sum of L. 30 : 9 : 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  Sterling, being the balance due by him.
- Act approving of the account of Mr William Murray, Agent for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him of the sum of L. 117 : 4 : 3 Sterling, disbursed by him, and appointing that he take credit in his next account for the sum of L. 4 : 14 : 3 Sterling, being the balance due to him.
- Act approving of the account of Mr James Dickson, Printer for the Church, and ordering payment of the sum of L. 12 : 1 : 6 Sterling, being the amount thereof.
- Act approving of the account of stationary articles furnished to the clerks by Mr Elphinston Balfour, and ordering payment of the sum of L. 13 : 2 : 10, being the amount thereof.
- The Report of the Committee on the cause relating to the Schoolmaster of Bothwell, given in by Sir Henry Moncreiff, Convenor, and unanimously approved of; and the Committee renewed, with the addition of Mr Lapslie; to report to next Assembly: And the Assembly recommend it to those Presbyteries of the Church who have not yet subscribed, to give their aid, along with their Brethren, to a cause so generally interesting to the Church and to the country; and to those Presbyteries who have already subscribed, to collect the amount of their subscriptions, and remit the money to Mr William Murray, Agent for the Church.
- A Committee appointed to examine into the particulars of the Overture from the Synod of Aberdeen, respecting Students of Divinity; to report to the Assembly on Monday.
- The Overture from the Synod of Moray, respecting the overleaping of Synods as Courts of Review, dismissed as unnecessary.
- Mr Lapslie withdrew his Overture relative to the Collections for the poor, and the providing of proper places of worship for the people of the Establishment.
- Adjournment.

*Monday, May 29. 1797. Sess. ult.*

*Sederunt.*

A new Commission produced.

The Report of the Committee on new applications was called for, given in, and read.

The Process mentioned in the Petition for Mr Alexander Duff, minister of Monymusk, was remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to be carried on at the public expence.

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ABRIDGMENT, 1797.

The Petition for Mr John Findlater, Minister at Glasg, ordered to lie on the table ; and, in the mean time, the Assembly remitted the same to the Procurator, to consider the case therein mentioned, and to report to next Assembly.

List of Probationers produced, their names read out, and ordered to be recorded.

The Report of the Committee on the Overture from the Synod of Aberdeen, respecting Students of Divinity, called for, given in, and read, and approved of. And,

Upon the Report of the Committee appointed to class returns to Overtures, the Assembly ordered the former Overture, respecting the licensing of Probationers, to be re-transmitted ; and also the Overture from the Synod of Aberdeen, respecting Students of Divinity, as amended by the Committee, to be transmitted as a separate Overture.

See Printed  
Acts, No. VIII.  
—— IX.

The Moderator of the last Assembly having laid before this Assembly letters which he had received from Lord Dundas and Lord Armadale, in answer to the letter and statement which he was appointed by last Assembly to transmit to the principal Heritors of the different Parishes in the Synod of Orkney ; the General Assembly finding, with much satisfaction, that some of the grievances within that Synod, formerly complained of, have been redressed, appoint the Moderator to write respectful letters of thanks to Lord Dundas and Lord Armadale, for the attention which they have paid to the recommendation of last Assembly. At the same time, the General Assembly, accounting it their duty to make every competent exertion to obtain full redress of the grievances which still exist within the said Synod, appoint the Moderator, Dr Greenfield, Dr Hill, Dr Hunter, Dr Grieve, Dr Baird, Mr Finlayson, Sir Henry Moncrieff, Dr Kemp, Mr Moodie, the Lord Advocate, the Procurator, Professor Dalzel, and Charles Hope, Esq; as a Committee, Dr Grieve to be Convener, to correspond with the Heritors or Ministers, or with the Synod or Presbyteries of Orkney, on that subject ; and instruct the Procurator to select such case or cases as appear to him of the greatest importance and urgency, and to prosecute them without delay at the public expence. And the General Assembly, judging it impossible for them to enter into the detail of particular grievances, refer to this Committee the state of the Churches and Parochial Schools, laid before them by the Synod of Orkney, the answers given in to the Agent for the Church on the part of Lord Dundas, and the observations on these answers by the Members from Orkney, and to report to next Assembly.

The Report of the Committee of last Assembly on the Petition of the Ministers of Tongue, Duirness, and Edrachilles, called for, given in, and read, and unanimously approved of.

Reasons of Dissent from the judgment of the Assembly on the 26th instant, on the Regulations and Overture respecting Chapels

**ABRIDGMENT, 1797.**

Chapels of Ease, were given in, and read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*.

The Report of the Committee on the Overture from the Presbytery of Kincardine-o'Neal, anent Processes against Clergymen, was given in, and read. The Assembly unanimously dismissed the Overture.

A Committee named to revise the Minutes of the Assembly's proceedings at this and all other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of the Assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.

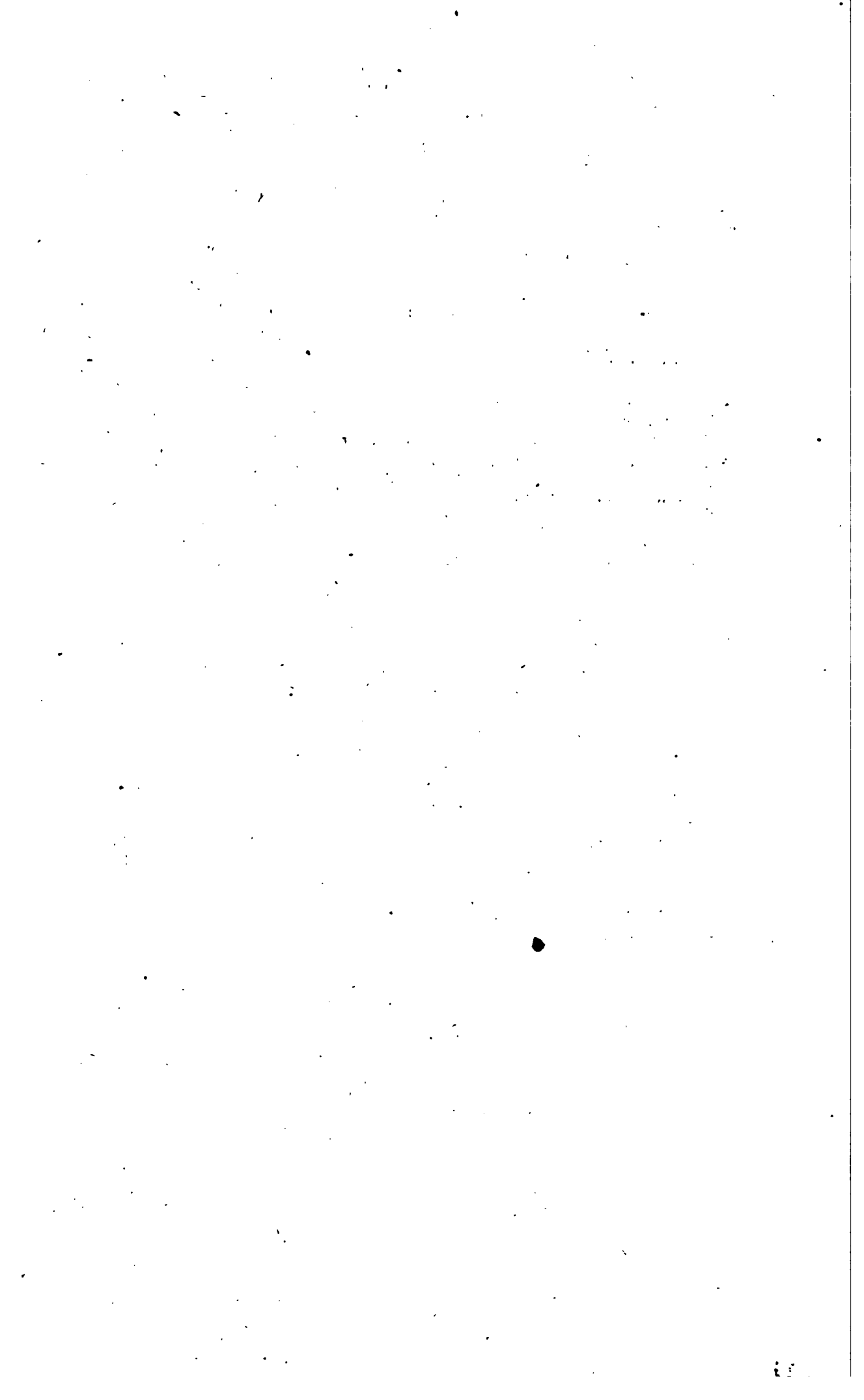
The Moderator's speech to the Assembly, and to his Grace the Commissioner.

The Lord High Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

Act appointing next diet of Assembly.

See Printed

The Assembly concluded with Prayer, singing of Psalms, and Acts, No. X. pronouncing the Blessing.



THE PRINCIPAL  
A C T S  
OF THE  
General Assembly  
OF THE  
C H U R C H  
OF  
S C O T L A N D,

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, THE 17th DAY OF MAY 1798.

COLLECTED AND EXTRACTED FROM THE RECORDS BY THE CLERK THEREOF.



EDINBURGH:  
PRINTED BY JAMES DICKSON, PRINTER TO THE  
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

M.DCC.XCVIII.





THE PRINCIPAL  
A C T S  
OF THE  
General Assembly  
OF THE  
CHURCH of SCOTLAND,

Begun at EDINBURGH, the 17th day of MAY 1798.  
and concluded the 29th day of the said Month and  
Year.

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I.

The KING's Commission to DAVID Earl  
of LEVEN and MELVILLE produced,  
and ordered to be recorded.

*Edinburgh, May 17. 1798.*

**T**HE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National  
CHURCH being convened and constituted,  
there was produced to them, by the Honour-  
able GEORGE MELVILLE LESLIE, the KING's  
Commission, sealed with the seal appointed  
by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in *Scot-*  
*land*, in place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making  
and constituting the Right Honourable DAVID EARL  
of

of LEVEN and MELVILLE, his Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Assembly;—the tenor whereof follows:

**G**EORGIUS, Dei gratiâ, Magnæ Britanniae, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentēs literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem Nos considerantes, quod Generalis Ecclesiæ Scotiæ Conventus in decimum septimum diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; Nosque abundè cupidi, et necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem generalis conventus die statuto debite observetur, atque rebus magni momenti Nos aliò vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; Nosque abundè satisfacti de sufficientia et fideitate fidelissimi et prædilectissimi Nostri consanguinei Davidis Comitis de Leven et Melville, quod ad summum munus Nostri supremi Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum ritè exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus: Noveritis igitur, Nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, tenoreque præsentium, nominare, constituere, et ordinare, memoratum fidelissimum et prædilectissimum Nostrum consanguineum Davidem Comitem de Leven et Melville, supremum Nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram Nostram Personam et auctoritatem regalem repræsentandi, nec non presentiam Nostram supplendi, et locum Nostrum in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario Nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plenè adeoque liberè in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius in eodem summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si Nos ipsi personaliter præsentēs facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula quæ dictus David Comes de Leven et Melville, in hac Nostra Commissionē prosequenda legitime fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, Nos firmiter approbamus et ratificamus. Insuper omnibus et singulis dicti conventus et ecclesiæ pastoribus et presbyteris, cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britanniae Scotiam vocatam, subditis Nostriis, cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum Davidem Comitem de Leven et Melville, tanquam supremum Nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoscant et audiant, strictè mandamus et præcipimus: Atque hanc Nostram Commissionem à dicto decimo septimo die Maii proximi incipere, et deinceps durare subsequente



*sequente sessione dicti generalis conventus in vigore continuare, declaramus, vel usque dum à Nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, presentibus sigillum Nostrium per Unionis tractatum custodiend., et in Scotia vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus. Apud aulam Nostram apud St James's, vigesimo tertio die mensis Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo et nonagesimo octavo Regnique Nostri anno trigesimo octavo.*

*Per signaturam manu S. D. N. Regis superscriptam.*

## II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the  
General Assembly, presented to them  
by his Majesty's Commissioner.

**GEORGE R.**

**R**IGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well. The experience of many years authorizes Us to repose the fullest confidence in the wisdom of your counsels and measures, and the temper of your minds, and calls upon Us to repeat those assurances of Our paternal affection towards you, so justly due to your Venerable Body.

We are firmly persuaded, that Our entire Kingdom will derive the greatest advantages from the deliberations of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. At the same time, We trust that your proceedings will continue to be distinguished by that Gravity and Calmness, by that Loyal Attachment to Our Person, by that Love for the People committed to your charge, and that spirit of Christian Charity one towards another, which cannot fail to confer dignity on yourselves, and to give authority to your decisions.

We recommend it to you, most earnestly, to persevere in your attention to the advancement of Piety, and the Practice of all Christian Duties, both moral and positive; to the preservation of sound Doctrine, and the checking those loose notions, both in Faith and Morality, which are the disgrace of these times; and which,

unless timely counteracted, must operate to the destroying of all good Principles in the hearts of men, to the dissolving all the Bands of Society, and to the provoking of the Displeasure of Almighty God.

We have again constituted and appointed Our Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousin, DAVID Earl of LEVEN and MELVILLE, to be our Commissioner, and to represent Our Royal Person in this Assembly. We know his ardent zeal for the great cause of Religion, and the steady regard which has ever filled his mind for the peace and prosperity of the Church of Scotland, and therefore We do, with the greater satisfaction, repose in his faithful hands the execution of this important trust.

We avail Ourselves of this fresh opportunity of assuring you of Our full determination to maintain and preserve the Church of Scotland in the complete enjoyment of all its just rights and privileges; and We do solemnly adjure you, to reflect upon and fulfil, conjointly and individually, all those various duties, which the Well-being of the Establishment, the Interests of Civil Society, and Religion itself, so forcibly, at this awful moment, demand. And so We bid you heartily farewell.—Given at Our Court at St James's, the 11th day of May 1798, in the thirty-eight year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

PORTLAND.

Addressed thus:—*To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved, the Moderator, Ministers and Elders of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*



### III.

## The General Assembly's Answer to the KING's most gracious Letter.

*May it please your Majesty,*

**Y**OUR Majesty's most gracious letter, to this meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was received with the highest respect.

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The full confidence which Your Majesty is pleased to repose in the wisdom of our proceedings, and the renewed assurances of Your paternal affection, are most endearing testimonies of Your Royal favour, and fill our minds with the warmest gratitude to our beloved Sovereign.

The persuasion Your Majesty has condescended to express of the great advantages which will result to Your entire kingdom from the deliberations of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, is a most powerful incitement to us, in all our proceedings, to conduct ourselves with that gravity and calmness, and that loyal attachment to Your sacred Person,—and to cultivate that love for the people committed to our charge, and that spirit of Christian charity one towards another, which will best secure the dignity of our Order, and give authority to our decisions.

Feeling, as we do, the utmost abhorrence of those loose notions, both in Faith and Morality, which are the disgrace of these times; and animated by an ardent zeal to counteract their pernicious influence, we listen, with profound reverence, to Your Royal recommendation; and shall steadily persevere in our exertions for the preservation of sound doctrine, and for the advancement of genuine piety, and the practice of all Christian duties, both moral and positive; in the humble hope, that we may thus prove the means of averting the displeasure of Almighty God, and of promoting the happiness of Your Majesty's Subjects, by contributing to the maintenance of pure Religion, of good Government, and of social order.

Your Majesty's knowledge of the ardent zeal of the Earl of Leven and Melville in the great cause of Religion, and of his steady regard for the peace and prosperity of the Church of Scotland, and the long and pleasing experience we have had of his fidelity in the discharge of the duties of that high and important trust with which he is now invested, render the re-appointment of him to represent Your Royal Person peculiarly acceptable to this Assembly.

Your Royal Donation for propagating Christian Knowledge in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, we receive as a continued proof of Your Majesty's paternal concern for the spiritual as well as temporal interests of Your Subjects; and we shall study, by a wise and faithful application of it, to promote the pious and benevolent purpose for which it is granted.

We rely, with perfect confidence, on the fresh assurance of Your Majesty's determination, to maintain and preserve

preserve the Church of Scotland in the complete enjoyment of all its just rights and privileges. Deeply affected with the impressive charge of Our Sovereign, who, with paternal affection, solemnly adjures us to reflect upon our sacred obligations, we pledge ourselves to Your Majesty, that, through the help of God, we will, both conjointly and individually, fulfil all those various duties, which the Well-being of the Establishment, and the Interests of Civil Society, and of Religion, do, at this awful moment, so forcibly demand.

That the God and Father of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, may long preserve Your Sacred Person, direct Your Councils, and crown Your undertakings with abundant success;—that He may bless our Most Gracious QUEEN, the PRINCE and PRINCESS of Wales, and all the Royal Family;—that there may never be wanting one of Your Royal House to sit on the Throne of these Kingdoms to latest ages;—and that, after a long, useful and happy reign, You may exchange an earthly for a heavenly Crown, are and shall be the sincere prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient,

And most loyal Subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, }  
May 22. 1798. }

WILLIAM TAYLOR, *Moderator.*



## IV.

## ADDRESS to HIS MAJESTY on the present Situation of Public Affairs.

*Most Gracious Sovereign,*

**W**E, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in the General Assembly, beg leave to embrace this opportunity of approaching Your Throne, in order to express the sentiments which we feel on occasion of the arduous contest in which this Nation is engaged with a neighbouring hostile power.

During former times of tranquillity and peace, the Ministers of this Church had always studied to confirm the people under their charge in principles of loyalty to Your Majesty's Person and Government, and to inspire them with veneration for that happy constitution, civil and sacred, with which we have long been blessed. Now, when the day of trial is come, it is with the utmost satisfaction we behold the happy effects of those sentiments which we have long endeavoured to instill. We behold the great body of the people in this country united in zealous attachment to Your Majesty's Government, and in resolute endeavours to defend their ancient rights against every invader. We have the happiness of expressing to Your Majesty our firm persuasion, that the spirit of the country is now fully roused among all ranks of men. They are sensible, that all that is sacred to them as Christians, and dear to them as men, is at stake; and that in resisting their impious and outrageous foes, they are not only defending a Sovereign whom they love and revere, and supporting a constitution under which they have long been happy, but defending at the same time their own families, their persons and property. We can assure Your Majesty, that, on our part, nothing shall be wanting to cherish these

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patriotic

patriotic dispositions, to stimulate the general ardour in the public cause, and to promote every measure which the wisdom of Your Councils shall deem necessary for the security of the realm.

We beg leave to congratulate Your Majesty on the brilliant successes with which it has pleased the Almighty, already, to bless Your arms in various quarters. Trusting to that gracious aid of Heaven, which has so often signally supported the British Throne, and defeated the attempts of unjust and violent enemies, we entertain the firmest hopes that the insolent menaces of our present foes shall be completely baffled, and that an honourable and lasting peace shall terminate the contest in which Your Majesty and the Nation are now engaged.

That the God of battles may continue to bless Your Majesty's fleets and armies; that He may speedily give a check to the ambition and anarchy of those tyrannical rulers, who have disturbed the peace of so many surrounding nations; that He may long preserve Your Majesty's precious and important life, and still increase the lustre and prosperity of Your reign over a loyal and grateful people, shall ever be the fervent prayer of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most dutiful,

Most faithful,

And most obedient Subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, }  
May 22. 1798. }

WILLIAM TAYLOR, *Moderator.*

## V.

## Act and Regulations respecting the Erection of Chapels of Ease.

*Edinburgh, May 23. 1798. Sess. 6.*

**T**HE General Assembly, judging it expedient that no Chapel of Ease should be erected without the knowledge and approbation of the General Assembly, unanimously did, and hereby do, ordain, That, in future, if any petition shall be laid before any Presbytery of this Church, for the erection of a Chapel of Ease, the said Presbytery shall strictly observe the following Regulations. :

“ That, in future, when a petition shall be laid before any Presbytery of this Church, for the Erection of a Chapel of Ease, it shall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting; and at that meeting, unless it shall appear to the Presbytery, from the circumstances in which the petition is offered, that the erection of the said Chapel of Ease is unnecessary and inexpedient, they shall cite the Minister and Kirk-Session of the Parish, within which the Chapel is intended; and shall summon, by edictal citation, the Heritors of the Parish, and, if there is a Burgh in the Parish, the Magistrates of that Burgh, to attend the next Meeting of Presbytery, and to appear for their interest in the subject of the Petition, if they shall see cause:—That such Presbytery, after having heard the parties, shall sufficiently ascertain the circumstances on which the Petition is founded;—the facts stated as reasons for the necessity or expediency of the Chapel intended;—the general plan of the Chapel itself;—the estimate of the expence to be incurred in completing it;—the scheme laid down for discharging the debts which it may be necessary to contract;—the plan on which it is proposed to dispose of the collections to be made at the Chapel;—the names and designations of the persons in whom the property is

“ to

“ to be vested ;—the mode proposed for the election of  
 “ the Minister ;—the stipend to be provided to him ;—  
 “ and the security offered for the regular payment of  
 “ the stipend :—That such Presbytery shall thereafter  
 “ report the whole above-mentioned circumstances of  
 “ the case, from their minutes, to the next Meeting of  
 “ the General Assembly ; and shall not pronounce any  
 “ final judgment on the Petition, till they shall have re-  
 “ ceived the special directions of the Assembly there-  
 “ on ; and that it shall be competent for the petition-  
 “ ers, and for all parties having interest, to be heard on  
 “ the subject at the bar of the Assembly.”



## VI.

*Edinburgh, May 25. 1798. Sess. 8.*

*Upon the Report of the Committee on the clause of the Over-  
 ture from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, respecting the  
 course of University Education to be observed by Students  
 previous to their entering the Divinity Hall, the General  
 Assembly unanimously agreed to transmit the following Over-  
 ture on that subject, to the several Presbyteries of this Church,  
 enjoining them to send up their opinions thereon to the next  
 Assembly.*

**Overture respecting the Course of Uni-  
 versity Education to be observed by  
 Students, previous to their entering  
 the Divinity Hall.**

**W**HEREAS it has been represented, That Students  
 intended for the holy Ministry, do sometimes  
 hurry over their course of Philosophy in two Sessions of  
 the University, it is overtured, that it be recommended  
 to Students, previous to their entering a Divinity Hall,  
 to study Literature and Philosophy at an University,  
 during



during a course of five complete Sessions, in the following order, viz.

Session 1<sup>st</sup>, Humanity or Latin, with the Elements of Greek, in the first Humanity and Greek Classes.

Session 2<sup>d</sup>, Latin and Greek, in the higher Humanity and Greek Classes; with the Elements of Mathematics.

Session 3<sup>d</sup>, Logic, with Greek and Mathematics in the higher Classes.

Session 4<sup>th</sup>, Natural and Moral Philosophy; but not Session 5<sup>th</sup>, both in the same Session; together with Latin again, or Greek, or Mathematics, in one or more of the higher Classes.

But that it shall be expressly enacted, That no Professor of Divinity shall admit any Student into the Divinity Hall, until he produce certificates of his having studied at an University, during three complete Sessions, in the following Classes, viz. Logic, together with Greek in the higher Greek Class; and Natural and Moral Philosophy; it being, in this case, understood, that such Students are well grounded in Latin, and the Elements of Greek, previous to their entering the University.



## VII.

COMMISSION of the General Assembly  
to certain Ministers and Ruling Elders,  
for discussing affairs referred to them.

*Edinburgh, May 26<sup>th</sup> 1798. Sess. 9.*

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do nominate, commission and appoint, the Reverend Dr WILLIAM TAYLOR, Minister of the High Church of  
D Glasgow,

Glasgow, their Moderator : And,—From the *Presbytery* of *Gbanorry*, Mr Robert Smith at Cromarty, Mr David Denoon at Killearnan, *Ministers* ; Mr William Sprott, Solicitor at Law in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Tain*, Mr Alexander Macadam at Nigg, Mr Angus Macintosh at Tain, *Ministers* ; Charles Ross, Esq; of Craigs, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Dingwall*, Mr Harry Robertson at Kiltearn, Mr Charles Calder at Urquhart, *Ministers* ; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Abertarph*, Mr Patrick Grant at Boleskin, Mr Thomas Ross at Kilmanivaig, *Ministers* ; Coll Macdonald, Esq; of Dalness, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Uist*, Dr John Macleod at Harris, Mr Edmund Macqueen at Barra, *Ministers* ; Hector Macdonald Buchanan, Esq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Lochcarron*, Mr John Macqueen at Applecross, Mr Lauchlan Mackenzie at Lochcarron, *Ministers* ; Bailie Daniel Miller, Canongate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Dornoch*, Mr Walter Ross at Clyne, Mr Alexander Sage at Kildonan, *Ministers* ; Robert Bruce Æneas Macleod of Cadboll, Esq; *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Tongue*, Mr Alexander Falconer at Edrachilles, Mr William Mackenzie at Tongue, *Ministers* ; Mr William Maclean, merchant, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Gairbness*, Mr George Mackenzie at Olrick, Mr William Smith at Bower, *Ministers* ; Sir John Sinclair, Baronet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkwall*, Mr James Watson at South Ronaldsay, Mr Robert Yule at Kirkwall, *Ministers* ; Alexander Youngson, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh* of *Kirkwall*, Malcolm Laing, Esq; Advocate :—From the *Presbytery* of *Gairstone*, Mr James Bremner at Walls and Flottay, Mr Andrew Anderson at Birsay and Harray, *Ministers* ; David Reid, Esq; Commissioner of the Customs, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *North Isles*, Mr John Anderson at Stronsay, Mr Walter Trail at Lady Parish in Sanday, *Ministers* ; John Grieve, Esq; Commissioner of Excise, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Zetland*, Mr John Inches at Nesting, Mr John Menzies at Bressay, *Ministers* ; Professor Andrew Dalziel, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Edinburgh*, Dr James Mac-knight, Dr John Kemp, Mr William Simpson, Edinburgh, Mr William Paul, West Church, Mr Walter Buchanan, Canongate, Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood, West Church, *Ministers* ;

*Ministers* : Andrew Wauchope of Niddry, Esq; Charles Kerr, Esq; Dean of Guild of the City, William Cunningham of Bonington, Esq; *Ruling Elders* :—From the City of *Edinburgh*, The Right Honourable Thomas Elder, Lord Provost of the City, Mr Josiah Maxton, Convener of the Trades :—From the *University of Edinburgh*, Mr James Finlayson, Professor of Logic :—From the *Presbytery of Linlithgow*, Mr William Finlay at Polmont, Mr Henry Liston at Ecclesmachan, Mr William Meek at Torphichen, Mr Charles Richie at Kirkliston, *Ministers* ; David Dundas, Esq; of Duddingston, Mr John Dunlop, Collector of the Customs, Borrowstounness, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Burgh of Linlithgow*, Robert Blair, Esq; of Aventoun, Solicitor-General for Scotland :—From the *Burgh of Queensferry*, James Hopkirk, Esq; merchant, Glasgow :—From the *Presbytery of Biggar*, Mr Thomas Mitchell at Lamington, Mr John Fraser at Libberton, Mr Patrick Mollison at Walston, *Ministers* ; Mr David Stoddart, tenant in Easton of Dunfire, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Peebles*, Mr John Walker at Traquair, Mr Alexander Forrester at Linton, *Ministers* ; James Montgomery, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Peebles*, Thomas Cranstoun, Esq; writer to the Signet :—From the *Presbytery of Dalkeith*, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr Walter Fisher at Cranstoun, Mr David Ritchie, Assistant Minister at Pennycuik, *Ministers* ; The Right Honourable the Lord Advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Haddington*, Mr Henry Sangster at Humble, Mr Alexander Glen at Dirleton, Mr Alexander Brunton at Bolton, *Ministers* ; William Law, Esq; of Elvingstone, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Haddington*, Charles Brown of Coalston, Esq; Advocate :—From the *Presbytery of Dunbar*, Mr John Harvie at Innerwick, Mr Robert Moore at Oldhamstocks, *Ministers* ; The Right Honourable Charles, Earl of Hadinton, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Dunse*, Mr William Simpson at Greenlaw, Mr George Cunninghame at Dunse, *Ministers* ; Matthew Sandilands, Esq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Churnside*, Dr Walter Anderson at Churnside, Mr James Landells at Coldingham, *Ministers* ; George Buchan of Kello, Esq; *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Kelso*, Mr James Richardson at Makerston, Mr James Richardson at Morebattle, *Ministers* ; Sir James Pringle of Stichill, Baronet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Jedburgh*,

burgh, Dr Samuel Charters at Wilton, Mr James Rutherford at Hounam, Mr Thomas Campbell at Ancrum, *Ministers*; Mr James Hall at Hyndhope, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Lauder*, Mr Alexander Duncan at Gordon, Mr James Young at Legerwood, *Ministers*; Colonel John Pringle of Georgefield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Lauder*, The Right Honourable James, Earl of Lauderdale:—From the *Presbytery of Selkirk*, Dr Robert Douglas at Galashiels, Mr Robert Russell at Yarrow, *Ministers*; Mark Pringle, Esq; of Clifton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Selkirk*, Mr Alexander Cunningham younger of Hyndhope, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Annan*, Mr Nicholas Sloan at Dornock, Mr Thomas Gillespie at Cummertrees, *Ministers*; Joseph Norris, Esq; of Newfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Langholm*, Mr William Little at Westerkirk, Mr Thomas Martin at Langholm, *Ministers*; Mr John Peat, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Lochmaben*, Mr James Smail at Kirkmichael, Dr Andrew Brown at Lochmaben, Mr Gabriel Scott at Kirkpatrick Juxta, *Ministers*; William Tait, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Lochmaben*, Mr William Johnstone, writer, Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery of Penpont*, Mr John Robertson at Kirkonell, Mr Andrew Yorston at Closeburn, *Ministers*; John Corson Esq; of Dalwhat, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Dumfries*, Dr Bryce Johnston at Holywood, Mr John Maccubbin at Kirkpatrick Irongray, Mr John Wightman at Kirkmahoe, *Ministers*; Thomas Crichton younger of Achinkeoch, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Dumfries*, Hugh Corrie, Esq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery of Kircudbright*, Mr John Johnston at Croismichael, Mr George Maxwell at Buitie, Mr Alexander Robb at Tongland, *Ministers*; James Gordon younger of Culvenan, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of New Galloway*, Mr Robert Heron, Preacher of the Gospel:—From the *Burgh of Wigton*, John Jeffray of Allerbeck, Esq;—*Burgh of Whitborn*, John Bushby, Esq; Sheriff-clerk of Dumfries:—From the *Presbytery of Stranraer*, Mr John Mackenzie at Portpatrick, Dr Anthony Stewart at Newluce, *Ministers*; Thomas Adair of Genoch, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Stranraer*, Thomas Smith, Esq; one of the Principal Clerks to the Bills:—From the *Presbytery of Ayr*, Dr William Macquhae at St Quivox, Mr John Shepherd at Muirkirk, Mr William Thomson at Ochil-tree

tree, Dr William Ritchie at Tarbolton, Mr Robert Duncan at Dundonald, *Ministers*; Thomas Kennedy, Esq; of Denure, James Fergusson, Esq; of Bank, Advocate, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Ayr*, George Fergusson, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Irvine*, Mr Henry Graham at Cumbray, Mr John Duncan at Ardrossan, *Ministers*; David Boyle, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Paisley*, Mr John Findlay at Paisley, Mr John Brown at Kilmalcolm, Mr Thomas Brown at Innerkip, Mr Robert Steel at Greenock, *Ministers*; Mr William Stow, one of the Magistrates of Paisley, Archibald Campbell Esq; younger of Clathick, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Renfrew*, John Connell, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Hamilton*, Mr Michael Macculloch at Bothwell, Mr John Bower at Old Monkland, Mr John Thomson at Cambusnethan, *Ministers*; Professor George Jardine, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lanark*, Dr James Scott at Carlisle, Mr William Menzies at Lanark, *Ministers*; John Fullarton, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Glasgow*, Mr Alexander Rankin at Glasgow, Mr James Lapslie at Campsie, Mr Stevenson Macgill at Glasgow, *Ministers*; Sir John Stirling of Glorat, Baronet, Mr John Tennent, merchant in Glasgow, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City* of *Glasgow*, Archibald Newbigging, Esq; present Trades Bailie of Glasgow:—From the *University* of *Glasgow*, Professor William Richardson, Glasgow:—From the *Burgh* of *Rutberglen*, James Davidson, Esq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dumbarton*, Mr George Sym at New Kilpatrick, Mr Andrew White at Kilmarnock, Mr Duncan Macfarlane at Drummen, *Ministers*; The Right Honourable the Lord President, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunoon*, Mr Archibald Maclea at Rothsay, Mr Alexander Macfarlane at Kilfinan, *Ministers*; John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Rothsay*, William Macleod Bannatyne, Esq; of Kames:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kintyre*, Dr George Robertson at Campbelton, Mr Donald Macnicol at Jura, Mr James Macintosh at Kilarow, *Ministers*; Robert Davidson, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Campbelton*, William Campbell of Fairfield, Esq;:—From the *Presbytery* of *Inverary*, Mr Archibald Campbell at North Knapdale, Mr Dugald Campbell at Kilmichael Glassry, *Ministers*; David Campbell, Esq; of Comby, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lorn*, Mr John Macfarlane at Kilbrandon,

Mr Alexander Macintyre at Kilchrenan, *Ministers*; John Campbell of Lochend, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Mull, Mr Alexander Campbell at Ardnarmurchan, Mr Dugald Campbell at Ross, *Ministers*; Rannald Macdonald, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Dunkeld, Mr William Macritchie at Clunie, Mr James Patrick Bannerman at Cargill, Mr Alexander Niven at Dunkeld, Mr Hugh Macdougall at Killin, *Ministers*; John Hagart, Esq; Advocate, Mr John Macritchie writer, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of Perth, Mr William Lang at Arngosk, Mr John Inglis at Tibbermuir, Mr Antony Dow at Kilsindie, Mr David Moncrieff at Redgorton, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Beatson, writer to the Signet, Bailie James Dickson, bookseller, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of Stirling, Mr James Frame at Alloa, Mr John Duncan at Alva, *Ministers*; Burnet Bruce, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Auchterarder, Mr Robert Stirling at Crieff, Mr James Ramsay at Maderty, Mr James Brugh at Trinity Gask, *Ministers*; Patrick Murray, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Dunblane, Dr James Robertson at Callander, Mr Duncan Stewart at Balquhiddar, *Ministers*; William Campbell, Esq; writer, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Dunfermline, Mr Alexander Thomson at Carnock, Mr Patrick Spence at Orwell, Mr John Fairnie at Dunfermline, *Ministers*; Sir Charles Preston of Valleyfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of Kirkcaldy, Mr Thomas Fleming at Kirkcaldy, Mr James Wemyss at Bruntisland, Mr Francis Nicol at Auchtertool, *Ministers*; Alexander Park, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of Bruntisland, Mr Alexander Pitcairn, Insurance Broker in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of Cupar, Dr George Campbell at Cupar, Mr David Wilkie at Cults, Mr James Lister at Auchtermuchty, Mr Andrew Thomson at Balmerino, *Ministers*; George Greenlaw of Hilton, Esq; Mr Thomas Ireland at Chance Inn, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of St Andrews, Dr John Adamson and Dr George Hill at St Andrews, Mr James Macdonald at Kemback, Mr Robert Wilson at Easter Anstruther, *Ministers*; Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Monypenny of Pitmilley, Dr John Rotheram, Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of St Andrews, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of St Andrews, Joseph Maccormick, Esq; Advocate:—From the *University* of St Andrews, Dr Joseph Maccormick, Principal

Principal of the United College:—From the *Burgh* of *Crail*, Mr Thomas Weir, writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Meigle*, Dr James Playfair at Meigle, Mr James Playfair at Bendochy, Mr James Will at Ruthven, *Ministers*; Sir William Ramsay, Baronet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Forfar*, Mr Thomas Wright at Roscobie, Mr John Webster at Inverarity, *Ministers*; Mr John Moncreiff, Apothecary, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Forfar*, Robert Graham, Esq; of Fintry:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dundee*, Mr Alexander Imlach at Murroes, Mr John Anderson at Dundee, Mr Charles Cunningham at Lundie and Foulis, *Ministers*; George Paterfon, Esq; of Castlehuntly, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Dundee*, James L' Amy, Esq; Advocate, younger of Dunkenny:—From the *Presbytery* of *Aberbrothock*, Mr William Milligan at Kirkden, Mr George Gleig at Aberbrothock, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Milne merchant, Canongate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Brechin*, Mr John Pirie at Lochlee, Mr Andrew Hutton at Edzel, Mr Andrew Fergusson at Maryton, *Ministers*; Sir James Stirling Baronet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Brechin*, Adam Gillies, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Fordoun*, Mr James Walker at Dunnotter, Mr Robert Croll at Bervie, Mr George Cook at Laurencekirk, *Ministers*; John Burnett, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Aberdeen*, Dr David Cruden at Nigg, Mr Skene Ogilvy at Old Machar, Mr George Morrison at Banchory Devenick, Dr James Frazer at Dalmaik, *Ministers*; William Robertson, Esq; Advocate, Procurator for the Church, John Gordon, Esq; of Craig, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kincardine O' Neal*, Mr Robert Farquharson at Coldstone, Mr Charles Machardy at Crathie, Mr Joseph Smith at Birse, *Ministers*; William Macdonald, Esq; of Renetton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Alford*, Mr John Harper at Kildrummy, Mr Benjamin Mercer at Forbes and Kearn, Mr Andrew Marshall at Tullynefsle, *Ministers*; James Gordon younger of Craig, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Ellon*, Mr Pirie at Slains, Mr Cock at Cruden, *Ministers*; Dr Hugh Macleod, Professor of Church History in the University of Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Garioch*, Mr George Skene Keith at Keith-hall, Mr George Daun at Inch, Mr William Smith at Bourty, *Ministers*; William Gordon, Esq; of Rothny, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Deer*, Mr Hugh Taylor

and Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise, to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorized by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correspondence with the Committee for reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them, as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies One thousand seven hundred and twelve, and One thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Assembly One thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Assembly held in the year One thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission; and such of the members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them, to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same:  
And



first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftner, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to choose their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully empowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year One thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here inserted; and that they inquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books and pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission, to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to Synods

Mackintosh, Mr Charles Calder, Mr Patrick Grant, Dr John Macleod, Mr John Macqueen, Mr Alexander Sage, Mr William Mackenzie, Mr Charles Richie, Mr John Frazer, Mr Alexander Forrester, Dr Alexander Carlyle, Mr Alexander Brunton, Mr John Harvie, Mr George Cunningham, Dr Walter Anderson, Mr James Richardson, Dr Samuel Charters, Mr Alexander Duncan, Dr Robert Douglas, Mr Thomas Gillespie, Mr Thomas Martin, Dr Andrew Brown, Mr Andrew Yorston, Dr Bryce Johnston, Mr John Johnston, Mr John Mackenzie, Dr William Macquhae, Mr Henry Graham, Mr John Finlay, Mr Michael Macculloch, Dr James Scott, Mr Alexander Rankin, Mr George Sym, Mr Archibald Maclea, Dr George Robertson, Mr Archibald Campbell, Mr John Macfarlane, Mr Alexander Campbell, Mr William Macritchie, Mr John Inglis, Mr James Frame, Mr Robert Stirling, Dr James Robertson, Mr Patrick Spence, Mr Thomas Fleming, Dr George Campbell, Dr John Adamson, Dr George Hill, Dr Joseph Maccormick, Dr James Playfair, Mr Thomas Wright, Mr John Anderson, Mr William Milligan, Mr John Pirie, Mr James Walker, Mr George Cook, Mr Joseph Smith, Mr Andrew Marshall, Mr William Smith, Mr Hugh Taylor, Mr John Falconer, Mr Alexander Milne, Mr James Gordon, Mr Francis Grant, Mr John Grant, Mr William Gordon, Mr John Hoyes, Mr Pryse Campbell, Mr Alexander Frazer, *Ministers*; Mr William Sprott, Charles Ross, Esq; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, Mr Coll Macdonald, Bailie Daniel Miller, Mr William Maclean, Commissioner Reid, Commissioner Grieve, Professor Dalzel, Charles Kerr, Esq; The Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Convener Maxton, Mr Solicitor-General, James Montgomery, Esq; Thomas Cranstoun, Esq; The Right Honourable Lord Advocate, The Right Honourable Earl of Hadinton, Mr Matthew Sandilands, Mr Alexander Cunningham, Mr Joseph Norris, Mr John Peat, William Tait, Esq; Mr William Johnston, Mr Hugh Corrie, Mr Thomas Smith, James Fergusson, Esq; George Fergusson, Esq; David Boyle, Esq; Archibald Campbell, Esq; John Connel, Esq; Professor George Jardine, John Fullarton, Esq; Mr James Davidson, The Right Honourable Lord President, John Lamont, Esq; William Macleod-Bannatyne, Esq; Robert Davidson, Esq; William Campbell of Fairfield, Esq; David Campbell, Esq; Ranald Macdonald, Esq; John Haggart, Esq; Mr John Macritchie, Mr Alexander Beatson, Bailie James Dickson, Burnet Bruce, Esq; Patrick

trick Murray, Esq; Mr William Campbell, writer, Mr Alexander Pitcairn, George Greenlaw, Esq; Lieutenant-Colonel Monypenny, Dr John Rotheram, Joseph Mac-cormick, Esq; Mr Thomas Weir, Sir William Ram-fay, Mr John Moncrieff, Robert Graham, Esq; James L'Amy Esq; Mr Thomas Miln, Sir James Stirling, Adam Gillies, Esq; John Burnett, Esq; The Procu-rator, Mr William Macdonald, James Gordon, young-er of Craig, Esq; Dr Hugh Macleod, Mr Archibald Miln, Mr George Andrew, Dr Gregory Grant, Mr Wil-liam Blair, Mr George Cumin, Mr James Grant, Mr Alexander Grant, Simon Fraser, Esq; Alexander Baillie, Esq; *Ruling Elders*; TO BE A COMMITTEE of this Assem-bly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true reli-gion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for ma-naging the Royal Bounty for these ends, according to, and in terms of his Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to his Majesty's design, expressed in His warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small Isles, Glen-co, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glen-elg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by rea-son of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective off-ices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation; prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Ma-jesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divi-nity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to ca-techise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Chri-tian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are

under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee to have a particular regard, in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Assemblies; and to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert, in their registers, the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations, of the several Missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said Missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning Missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the Missionaries, except upon receipts from the Missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, that they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts; and that every Catechist, who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners, or gentlemen of the district, shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to the Cashier, a declaration, that he has received the particular sum specified; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall, in like manner, bear, that the Catechist has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no such declaration of the Catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the Cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the Catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty: That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the

the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the Missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned, who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named, as Members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be Ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of Missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be Ministers: and the said Committee are appointed to have their first general meeting at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of the first of the stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly; their second meeting (which is for fixing the annual scheme) upon the second Thursday of July, with power to those Members who shall then be present, to adjourn; and their other two general meetings the first lawful days after the stated meetings of the Commission of the General Assembly, in November and March, within the Assembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the Commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the same, as he shall be directed

directed and ordered by the foresaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of His Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be Ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lie on the table till another meeting; and, in the mean time, the person complained of, and the Presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just account of the matter against the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly scheme of Missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their answer to these letters, at farthest, with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot complete it, they shall name a sub-committee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible: And empowered the Committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said Committee, in making up the scheme of Missionaries, &c. do not exceed the sum in the grant.



## IX.

Edinburgh, May 28. 1798. *Seff. ult.*

*UPON the Report of the Committee for classing returns to Overtures,—The Assembly unanimously agreed to retransmit the Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers ; also the Overture respecting the Attendance of Students on the Divinity Hall ; and particularly, enjoin such Presbyteries as have sent no returns, to send up their Opinions to next Assembly ; and that Presbyteries shall appoint a day for the consideration of these two Overtures at their first Meeting after receiving the printed Acts of Assembly ; and that they shall also take into their consideration on the same day, the Overture respecting the Course of University Education, to be observed by Students previous to their entering the Divinity Hall, transmitted by this Assembly.*

## New Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers.

Edinburgh, May 25. 1792. *Seff. 8.*

**T**HE General Assembly having taken under their serious consideration, the great danger to which the interests of Religion and of this Church may be exposed, by licensing any to preach the Gospel who are not duly qualified for that important trust, do hereby enact and ordain, That in all time coming the following regulations shall be strictly observed :

I. It is hereby enacted, That no Student shall be entered upon the Roll of any Professor of Divinity, unless he shall produce to the said Professor a certificate from the Minister of the parish in which he has his usual residence ; or in his absence, or during a vacancy in said parish, from some neighbouring Minister, bearing, that

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his character is suitable to his views; together with a diploma of Master of Arts, or certificates from the several Professors of Philosophy, under whom he hath studied, from which it may be clearly ascertained that, in some University or Universities, he hath gone through a full course of Philosophy, in some winter-sessions of College preceding that in which the certificates are produced.

II. The General Assembly do likewise hereby ordain, That all Students who have been inrolled by Professors of Divinity, in the manner prescribed by this act, shall continue to prosecute the study of Divinity for the term of six Sessions: Provided always, That if any Student hath given regular attendance in the Divinity Hall during three Sessions, his Course shall be considered as completed in four Sessions; and that if he hath given regular attendance in the Hall during two Sessions, his Course shall be considered as completed in five Sessions. And the Assembly do further ordain, That in each of these cases, Students shall be inrolled by the Professors during the several Sessions of their respective Courses, and deliver in the Divinity Hall, in the manner herein afterwards provided, an Exegesis in Latin, on some controverted Head in Divinity, a Homily in English, an Exercise and Addition, a Lecture on some large portion of Scripture, and a popular Sermon, together with such other exercises as the Professors shall think proper to prescribe. And the Assembly further enact and declare, That a Student is entitled to apply to the Professor for his certificates, that he may be proposed for trials, and that the preliminary steps may be taken by the Presbytery during the currency of the last Session of his Course, as above described; with this limitation, that if the said last Session is to be claimed as a Session of regular attendance, he shall, toward the conclusion thereof, obtain a new certificate of his attendance during its currency, and produce the same to the Presbytery or Synod.

III. Professors of Divinity are required to attend, as much as circumstances may permit, to the conduct of such Students as are under their care, and, as far as they find it practicable, to insist that every Student shall deliver his first Discourse some time during his second Session, at the latest, and the remainder of his Discourses  
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at such periods as may enable him to deliver the whole of them before the end of January of the last Session of his Course.

IV. When a Student is proposed to any Presbytery, in order to be taken upon trials, the Presbytery shall be alone, and the motion for that purpose shall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting. In the mean time, the Presbytery shall appoint the Member by whom the Student has been proposed, to lay before the said meeting the certificate or certificates in favour of the Student, that are specified in the third paragraph of the fifth section of this act; to desire him to attend the same; and to inform him, that, previously to the meeting, he ought, as far as circumstances may permit, to wait on such Ministers of the Presbytery as have not formerly had an opportunity of conversing with him in private.

V. When the time appointed for considering the motion is arrived, the Presbytery shall strictly observe the following regulations.

1<sup>st</sup>, The Presbytery shall be alone, while they are employed in discussing the several preliminaries respecting Students who are proposed for trials.

2<sup>d</sup>, They shall require satisfying evidence, that every Student who is proposed for that purpose has completed the twenty-first year of his age.

3<sup>d</sup>, No Student shall be admitted to trials, unless he produces to the Presbytery a certificate or certificates from the Professor or Professors of Divinity, under whose tuition he hath studied, bearing, that he hath prosecuted his studies, and delivered his Discourses, in the manner prescribed by this act; and that his conduct, as far as consists with the knowledge of the said Professor, or Professors, has been in every respect suitable to his views in life. And the General Assembly do likewise hereby enact, That the Presbytery shall record at full length the said certificate, or certificates, in their minutes: And it is hereby enacted and declared, That the Student having lodged such certificate or certificates, shall be entitled to obtain extracts of the same, if demanded.

4<sup>th</sup>, No Presbytery shall receive any Student upon trials, unless they are satisfied that he is of good report; sound in his principles; pious, sober, grave, and prudent,

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in his behaviour; of a peaceable disposition; and well affected to the happy establishment in this kingdom, both in Church and State. And, that the Presbytery may proceed with all due caution, in a matter of such peculiar importance, they shall not agree to the motion in behalf of the Student, unless his residence, during the year preceding, has been chiefly within their bounds, or he shall produce sufficient testimonials from the Presbytery, in whose bounds his residence has chiefly been during that term, bearing, that his character is such as is described in the immediately preceding sentence of this paragraph, and recommending him, in these respects, to the Presbytery before whom the proposal is made, as a proper person to be entered upon trials.

5th, The Presbytery shall not agree to the motion in favour of the Student, unless they are satisfied that he has made a competent degree of proficiency in those several branches of knowledge which are necessary to enable him to be an useful Preacher of the Gospel. And the General Assembly ordain, that the Presbytery, in order to procure full information in this respect, shall examine the Student strictly, and privately, on his knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, and of Philosophy and Theology.

6th, If after these preliminary steps have been taken, the Presbytery shall be of opinion that the Student is duly qualified in these several particulars, they shall record this opinion in their minutes, and order their clerk to write letters to the several Presbyteries within the bounds of the Provincial Synod, two kalendar months at least before the meeting of the same, informing them of the Presbytery's intention to take the Student upon Public Trials, and bearing, that the certificate, or certificates in his favour, which are required by this act, have been regularly laid before them. But it is hereby provided, That within the bounds of such Synods as meet only once a-year, a Student may be entitled to have these circular letters written half a-year sooner than would be otherwise competent.

VI. The General Assembly do likewise hereby enact and declare, That, at the request of the Student, it shall be competent to any Presbytery to transfer the receiving of the Public Trials, or any part thereof, certifying to the Presbytery to which the transference is to be made, that the various preliminary steps have been taken

taken according to the directions of this act; and that such parts of the public and private trials as have been already gone through, have been received with approbation.

VII. If a Student have studied, either in whole or in part, in Protestant Universities which are not within the bounds of this Church, he shall, when he is proposed to any Presbytery for trials, be required to produce satisfying testimonials from the Professors of Divinity in said Universities; and the time which these Professors shall certify to have been employed by him in studying Divinity under their tuition, shall be computed in the same manner as if he had prosecuted his studies in any of the Universities within the bounds of this Church. But it is hereby provided, That no Student, in such circumstances, shall be admitted even to those private trials which are appointed to be taken before the writing of the circular letters, sooner than six kalendar months after his arrival in Scotland.

VIII. The General Assembly ordain, That, if a Presbytery propose to take a Student upon public trials, and have, with that view, written the circular letters, as is herein required, public intimation thereof shall be made at some diet of the next meeting of the Provincial Synod, which shall not be the last diet thereof: And the Presbytery clerk is hereby required to transmit to the Synod clerk an extract of the certificate or certificates laid before the Presbytery in favour of the Student, in order that the same may be produced at this diet of the Synod: And it is likewise hereby ordained, That at some subsequent diet of the Synod, particular inquiry shall be made, whether any of the Members of the Court has any objection to offer against the Student being entered upon Public Trials: And that the Synod then, taking into consideration the extract produced, and the whole of the case, shall judge of the expediency of allowing the Presbytery to admit the Student on trials: Or, if in any case the Presbytery clerk shall fail to transmit the extracts of the certificates above mentioned, the Student may produce to the Synod, by himself, or by any Member of the Court, the extract of the same, which by this act he is entitled to obtain.

IX. If the Synod shall allow the Student to be taken upon Public Trials, the Presbytery shall proceed therein  
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with all convenient speed ; and the Assembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the Student, and in the order herein mentioned : 1<sup>st</sup>, Catechetic trials on Divinity, Chronology, and Church History ; 2<sup>d</sup>, A trial on the Hebrew and Greek languages ; 3<sup>d</sup>, An Exegetis in Latin on some controverted Head in Divinity ; 4<sup>th</sup>, A Homily in English ; 5<sup>th</sup>, An Exercise and Addition ; 6<sup>th</sup>, A Lecture on some large portion of Scripture ; 7<sup>th</sup>, A popular Sermon ; it being understood, that if the Presbytery see cause, they may examine the Student upon the subject of these several Discourses.

X. The Student having gone through the several trials, which are mentioned in the immediately preceding section of this act, the Presbytery are ordained to proceed in the following order.

1<sup>st</sup>, They shall, deliberately and seriously, take a conjunct view of the whole trials ; and if they shall be of opinion, that the Student is not properly qualified to perform the duties incumbent upon a Preacher of the Gospel, they shall by no means grant him a License in his present circumstances.

2<sup>d</sup>, If, upon this review of the trials, the Presbytery are fully satisfied therewith, they shall record this opinion in their minutes.

3<sup>d</sup>, The Presbytery shall then propose to the Student the questions that are appointed to be put to all who pass Trials by act 10th, Assembly 1711, and require him to subscribe the *Formula* which is prescribed by the said act. And the General Assembly strictly prohibit all Presbyteries from licensing any Student to preach the Gospel, who shall not give explicit and satisfying answers to these questions, and subscribe the said *Formula*.

4<sup>th</sup>, The Presbytery shall order the act of Assembly 1759, against Simoniackal practices, to be read to the Student in their presence.

Lastly, The Presbytery shall appoint their Moderator to license the Student to preach the Gospel, and order their Clerk to furnish him with an extract of his license.

XI. For the better observance of this act, the General Assembly ordain, 1<sup>st</sup>, That it shall be printed among their other printed acts ; 2<sup>d</sup>, That it shall be printed by itself, in some convenient form ; 3<sup>d</sup>, That a copy of this separate edition shall be transmitted to each Professor

feſſor of Divinity in the Univerſities of Scotland ; and that the ſaid Profeſſors ſhall read the ſame in their reſpective Halls, once at leaſt during every Seſſion, and at ſuch times as they have reaſon to expect the attendance of the greateſt number of Students for that Seſſion ; and, *laſtly*, That a copy of the ſame edition ſhall likewiſe be tranſmitted to the Clerks of each Synod and Preſbytery, within the bounds of this Church, and that the ſaid Clerks ſhall keep the ſame along with their minutes, and bring it up to each meeting of their reſpective Courts, for the uſe of the Members.

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## X.

### Overture reſpecting the attendance of Students on the Divinity Hall.

*Edinburgh, May 29. 1797. Seſſ. ult.*

**T**HE Committee on the Overture from the Synod of Aberdeen, reſpecting the attendance of Students on the Divinity Halls, having maturely deliberated on the ſaid Overture, Report to the Venerable Aſſembly, That, in their opinion, it ought to be expreſſed in the following terms, *viz.* “ It is Overtured, that Students “ in Divinity, who propoſe to proſecute their ſtudies “ for fix Seſſions, ſhould be required to give as much “ partial attendance, during the currency of thoſe Seſſions, in the Divinity Halls which they reſpectively “ attend, as ſhall, in the whole, amount to fix months.”

The General Aſſembly approved of the above report, and ordered the ſame to be tranſmitted, as an Overture, for the conſideration of Preſbyteries.

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## XI.

### Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

*Edinburgh, 28th May 1798. Sess. ult.*

**T**HE next GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 23d day of May 1799.

*Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by*

**ANDREW DALZEL, Cl. Eccl. Scot.**

**REGULATIONS**



**REGULATIONS, adopted by the GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY 1798, for a New GAELIC CHAPEL  
in the City of Glasgow.**

*[See Abridgment, May 24. Sess. 7.]*

I. **T**HAT the property of the house shall, for behoof of the Congregation, be vested in Donald Munro, merchant, John Macintosh, manufacturer, and the other petitioners, Trustees and Managers of said Chapel, and their successors in office.

II. That the house shall be used only as a Chapel of Ease, and that it shall not be competent to elect any Minister or Preacher to officiate therein, but a licentiate of the Church of Scotland, or a person who is an ordained Minister, according to the rules of this Church; and who, before his ordination or admission, shall produce a certificate of his having taken the oaths to Government, according to law; and that the Minister of the Chapel of Ease shall be under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds the Chapel lies, subject to censure or deposition by the Presbytery, and not removable, but according to the rules of the Church relating to Ministers on the establishment; and that the Congregation which meets in said Chapel shall remain subject to the jurisdiction of the Church of Scotland, and her different judicatories.

III. That the funds arising from the seat-rents shall be under the management of the said Donald Munro, John Macintosh, and the other Trustees and Managers of the said Chapel, and their successors in office, and shall be applied, in the first place, to the payment of the Minister's stipend, precentor, and church-officer; and that, if there is any overplus, it shall be converted into a sinking fund, out of which, as soon as the present debt of the Chapel shall be paid, the stipend of the Minister may, from time to time, be augmented.

IV. That the conduct of the Managers, in the administration of the funds of the Chapel, shall be under the inspection and controul of the Presbytery of Glasgow; and if the Presbytery shall

shall see cause to summon them, the Managers shall attend the Presbytery upon a citation of ten free days.

V. That the present Managers shall supply any vacancy that may happen in their number during the space of five years: That at the end of every five years there shall be a new election of Managers, by the same persons, and in the same manner, as shall hereafter be directed in the case of the election of a Minister.

VI. That the Managers shall be liable and give security for the Minister's stipend, which shall be payable half yearly or quarterly, as may be most convenient for the Managers.

VII. That the Minister's stipend shall not be under Seventy pounds Sterling yearly.

VIII. That Collections be made regularly at the Chapel-doors, or in the Chapel, and that the sum arising therefrom shall be *bona fide* paid into the hands of the Treasurer of the General Sessions of Glasgow, and applied by them for the support of the poor of the said city.

IX. That the Minister first chosen is to be elected by a majority of the Managers, and all future elections shall be made only by those who possess seats in the Chapel; and to prevent all confusion and faction, those of each pew shall name one of their number, on the day preceding the election, who shall vote for the Minister; and the name of the person so nominated, with the number who occupy the pew, shall be immediately given in to the Managers: Provided always, that where a whole seat is set to one sitter for himself, or his family, or others, he alone shall have the vote for such pew: That previous to any election, the Managers shall cause intimation to be made to the Congregation, in the Chapel, of the time fixed for the election, at least ten days previous to the time so fixed, that, in the mean time, the vote for each pew, where there are more sitters than one, shall be vested in one person: That the Preses of the Managers for the time being shall preside at such election, and the Candidate having the majority of votes shall be preferred, and certified by the said Preses; in consequence of which, the Reverend Presbytery shall be requested to proceed to his trials and ordination, or admission, according to the rules of the Church: That in any future vacancy, if no day of election shall be fixed by the Managers within the space of six months, then it shall be in the power of the Presbytery to fix a day of election, by giving due previous intimation to the Congregation of the said Chapel.

X. That previous to the election, a list of Candidates, not exceeding five in number, shall be laid before the Presbytery of Glasgow.

XI.



XI. That when a vacancy happens in the Chapel of Ease, it shall be reported to the Presbytery by the Minister of the Parish: That during the vacancy, the Managers shall apply to the Presbytery of Glasgow, and shall have power, with consent of the Presbytery, to employ any Minister or Preacher of the Established Church to supply the Chapel.

XII. That no Candidate who is a Probationer, shall preach in said Chapel, before having laid his License and other Certificates before the Presbytery of Glasgow, and obtained their approbation; and no ordained Minister, before he has produced to the Presbytery a certificate of his Ordination from the Presbytery to which he belongs.

XIII. That the election of a new Minister, when reported to the Presbytery, shall be accompanied with a letter of acceptance from the person elected, with a renewal of the security for payment of the stipend.

XIV. That after the Candidate preferred is admitted and ordained a Minister, it shall be lawful for him to perform all ministerial services for the members of his own Congregation; particularly to perform every part of Public Worship in his own Pulpit, to which he shall have an exclusive right under the authority of the Reverend Presbytery; to marry after legal proclamation of banns; and to baptize after legal registration.

XV. That upon a certificate of the moral character of the persons applying to be admitted to the Sacraments from members of the parochial sessions to which they belong, the Minister may dispense the Sacraments of Baptism, and the Lord's Supper, to the people who shall attend his ministry in the Chapel, according to the word of God, and the standards and practice of this National Church,

XVI. That as often as the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper shall be dispensed in said Chapel, a sum not exceeding One hundred pounds Scots shall be allowed, from the collections made on these occasions, for communion-elements, &c.

XVII. That the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper shall be administered in the Chapel on the same day in which that ordinance is dispensed in the parish Churches of Glasgow; and that, during a vacancy, the Minister to preside on that occasion shall be appointed with the consent of the Minister of the parish in whose bounds the Chapel lies.

XVIII. That as this Chapel is intended for the accommodation of those who speak Gaelic only, or chiefly, seats shall be set to persons of this description only; that for the same reason, the service shall be performed in Gaelic in the forenoon of every Lord's Day; and that on occasion of dispensing the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the sermons shall all be in Gaelic.

T A B L E .

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# ABRIDGMENT

OF THE

**ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS** of the **GENERAL ASSEMBLY** of the **CHURCH of SCOTLAND**, held at **Edinburgh** in the Year **1798**, which are not printed at full length.

*Thursday, May 17. 1798. Sess. I.*

**A**FTER Sermon by the Reverend Dr **JOHN ADAMSON**, first Minister of St Andrews, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders convened in the Assembly-house in the usual manner: And after Prayer by the said Dr John Adamson, the Reverend Dr **WILLIAM TAYLOR**, Minister of the High Church of Glasgow, being unanimously chosen Moderator, he, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The General Assembly being thus constituted, there was given in to them by the Honourable George Melville Leslie, a message in writing from the Right Honourable **DAVID** Earl of **LEVEN** and **MELVILLE**, his Majesty's High Commissioner to this General Assembly, which was openly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Assembly.

The **KING's** Commission to the Right Honourable **DAVID** Earl of **LEVEN** and **MELVILLE**, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person in this Assembly, was likewise given in by the Honourable George Melville Leslie, read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded. See Printed Acts, No. I.

The **KING's** most gracious Letter to this Assembly was also given in by the Honourable George Melville Leslie, read in the most respectful manner, and ordered to be recorded. No. II.

His **MAJESTY's** Royal Warrant for L. 1000 Sterling was also delivered into the Assembly, by the Honourable George Melville Leslie, and ordered to be recorded, and thereafter delivered to the Procurator.

A Committee named to wait upon the Lord High Commissioner, in order to express to his Grace, in the name of the Assembly, the sense which the General Assembly entertains of his Majesty's favourable regard to this Church, in the repeated assurances given by him of his Royal Protection, and in particular for his gracious countenance given to this Assembly, by appointing a person so acceptable to them to represent his

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## ABRIDGMENT 1798.

Royal Person ; and to offer their Condolence to his Grace on occasion of the deep affliction with which it has pleased the the Almighty to visit him and his family.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

Upon a motion, a Committee named to revise the Actings and Proceedings of the Commission of last General Assembly, and to report on Monday.

A Committee named for revising the Commissions to the Members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof, naming Ministers to Preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, and receiving Lists of Probationers in the several Presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

A Committee for Overtures named.

A Committee for Bills, References, and Appeals, named.

Adjournment.

*Friday, May 18. 1798. Sess. 2.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

A Diet spent in Prayer

Act VII. of the Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of the business of the Assembly, read, and the observation thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to Preach before his Grace the Commissioner.

The Committee for revising Commissions appointed to meet.

The Committee for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

*Saturday, May 19. 1798. Sess. 3.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

See Printed  
Acts, No. III.

The draught of the Answer to the King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly being brought in and approved, the Assembly authorized the Moderator to request of his Grace the Commissioner to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The Report of the Committee for Overtures was given in and read.

It was objected to the Commission from the Burgh of Wick, That the Election being on the 5th day of April, and the resolution to Elect on the 29th day of March, there are not ten free days intervening. The Assembly approved of the Report of the Committee, and sustained the objection.

The roll of causes transmitted by the Committee for Bills was called for, produced, and read.

Agreed to take up the causes respecting the Settlement of Penpont on Monday, and the cause of Brechin on Tuesday.

A Committee named to revise the actings and proceedings of the Committee appointed by last Assembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

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## ABRIDGMENT, 1798.

A Committee named to audite the accounts of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, and other public accounts, consider the state of the Church's public money, and prepare Overtures about the same.

The Committee for Overtures was appointed to meet this evening, and empowered to receive from the several Members any instructions given to them by the respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures thereon to the Assembly; and to receive and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and Superstition, and prepare Overtures for preventing and suppressing thereof.

The Committee for Bills was appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

*Monday, May 21. 1798. Sess. 4.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

The Lord High Commissioner this day appeared in the House, and made a most gracious Speech to the Assembly. And the Moderator, at the Assembly's desire, gave the Thanks of the House to his Grace, and expressed the high satisfaction they felt at seeing his Grace in his own place among them.

The Report of the Committee appointed to revise the actings and proceedings of the Commission of last Assembly was called for, given in, and read, and unanimously approved of: And the Thanks of the Assembly being given from the Chair to the Moderator of last Assembly, in terms of the said Report, the Commission-book was ordered to be attested: And the Assembly ordered the Address, and the Admonition and Warning, published by the Commission, to be inserted into the records of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly, in pursuance of their approbation of the proceedings of the Commission of the last General Assembly of this Church, and taking into their more particular consideration the said proceedings, and especially the great propriety and seasonableness of the Address humbly presented to his Majesty by the said Commission, did, upon a motion made, unanimously agree, That this Assembly shall also present a dutiful and loyal Address to his Majesty on the present situation of Public Affairs; and appointed a Committee to prepare a draught thereof.

Report of the Committee for Overtures given in, and read.

Report of the Committee for Bills, given in, and read.

Synod Books called for.

An appeal by the Presbytery of Penpont, from a sentence of the Synod of Dumfries, dated 18th October last, finding, that the Presbytery of Penpont had acted irregularly in their proceedings with respect to the settlement of Penpont, and appointing them to be admonished to act more regularly in future, heard.

ABRIDGMENT, 1798.

heard. The Assembly found, That the Presbytery of Penpont acted regularly and properly in complying with the advice of last Assembly, to proceed with the settlement of Mr Nivison in the Church and Parish of Penpont ; and therefore, unanimously reversed the judgment of the Synod of Dumfries, inflicting a censure on the Presbytery of Penpont ; and, without a vote, ordained the said Synod to enter into their minutes, at their next meeting, this decision of the General Assembly.

The Assembly agreed to meet to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock, in a Committee of the whole House, to take into consideration the other branch of the cause respecting the Parish of Penpont. The Committees for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet. Adjournment.

*Tuesday, May 22. 1798. Sess. 5.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

See Printed Acts, No. IV. The draught of an Address to his Majesty on the present situation of Public Affairs, was brought in, and approved ; which Address, along with the Answer to his Majesty's Letter, his Grace the Lord High Commissioner was pleased, at the Assembly's request, to undertake to transmit to his Majesty.

The Report of the Committee for Overtures called for.

Agreed to consider the Overture on Chapels of Ease to-morrow.

The Report of the Committee for Bills called for.

Upon Report of the Committee of the whole House on the other branch of the cause of Penpont, The Assembly sustained the call given to Mr John Nivison, presentee to the Parish of Penpont : Ordained the Presbytery of Penpont, at their meeting on the 11th of June next, to proceed to take Mr Nivison upon Trials, and to appoint the Trials to be held at such times as that a day may be fixed for his ordination and admission as minister of Penpont, before the last day of July next ; and, in the event of any appeal or complaint taken against the judgment of the Presbytery, or any reference made in any step in the proceedings in this cause, the Assembly empowered their Commission to judge of said appeals, complaints or references, and to give such orders as they shall see necessary for carrying the settlement of the presentee into effect, according to the rules of the Church. Against which judgment several Members dissented.

A reference by the Synod of Angus and Mearns, respecting the qualifications of Mr James Gary, presentee to the Parish of Brechin, heard : Two separate motions were made ; and the roll being called, and votes marked, the Assembly found, That Mr Gary, the presentee to the Parish of Brechin, has not gone through that course of University education, in philosophy and theology, which the laws of this Church require,

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## ABRIDGMENT, 1798.

as necessary for all the Probationers thereof: That the certificate of Licence and Ordination he has produced from three Protestant dissenting Ministers in England, cannot, in consistency with the laws of the Church, be held as qualifying him to accept a presentation to any Parish in this Church; and that the deed of the Presbytery of Chanonry of 5th September 1796, laid before the Presbytery of Brechin along with the presentation, was rash and unwarranted, and did not qualify him to accept of that presentation; therefore, remitted this cause to the Presbytery of Brechin, directing them to pronounce, at their next meeting, a sentence, refusing to sustain the presentation to Mr Gary, in respect that the presentee is not qualified according to the laws of the Church. Against which decision several Members dissented.

The Committee for Revising Commissions, and the Committee for Bills, appointed to meet.

The causes respecting Chapels of Ease to be considered on Thursday; and the cause of Legertwood on Friday.

Adjournment.

*Wednesday, May 23. 1798. Sess. 6.*

*Sederunt.*

The Report of the Committee for bills called for.

The Committee on Public Accounts appointed to meet.

The Assembly proceeded to consider the Report on the returns to the Overture on Chapels of Ease; which being read, along with the Overture itself, a motion was made and seconded, That in respect a considerable majority of Presbyteries have now transmitted to the Assembly their opinions in favour of this Overture, the Assembly shall enact the same into a standing law of the Church: And, after long reasoning, another motion was made and seconded, That notwithstanding a majority of Presbyteries have returned their opinions to the Assembly in favour of this Overture, the General Assembly judge it inexpedient to enact the same into a law. The Assembly agreed to this state of the vote, *enact* or *not*; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried, by a great majority, *enact*: Therefore, the Assembly enacted said Overture into a standing law of the Church accordingly.

See Printed  
Acts, No. V.

Causes fixed for hearing.

Adjournment.

*Thursday May 24. 1798. Sess. 7.*

*Sederunt.*

A Committee appointed to prepare an Overture from the Overture from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr.

Public accounts produced, and ordered to lie on the table.

The Assembly proceeded to hear the Petition for John Macintosh, merchant in Glasgow, and others, trustees and managers

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gers of the New Gaelic Chapel erecting in Duke Street, Glasgow; and having considered the matter contained in the original Petition to the Presbytery, and the Presbytery's Report thereupon, they unanimously authorized and instructed the Presbytery of Glasgow to grant the desire of the petition, by erecting the Chapel of Ease in question, according to the regulations adopted by the Assembly.

See also Printed  
Acts.

An appeal of Archibald Sharp and others, as a Committee of subscribers for erecting a Chapel of Ease in Rothsay, from a sentence of the Presbytery of Dunoon, of 27th March last, appointing the Petition of the appellants to lie upon their table till next meeting of Presbytery, heard. The Assembly found, That the Presbytery of Dunoon acted with perfect regularity, in obedience to the interim act of last Assembly anent Chapels of Ease, and dismissed, as incompetent and frivolous, the appeal taken against the resolution of the Presbytery of the 27th of March last: Remitted to the Presbytery of Dunoon the Petition presented to the Assembly by the appellants: And the Assembly being informed, that the next ordinary meeting of the said Presbytery is in August next, authorized and appointed them to hold a *pro re nata* meeting on Tuesday the 3d of July next, then to proceed in the business of the Petition presented to them on the 27th of March, according to the directions of the standing law respecting Chapels of Ease, enacted by this Assembly. And whereas it is stated by the appellants in their Petition to this Assembly, that it was their ignorance of the regulations of the interim act anent Chapels of Ease which caused the delay of their Petition to the Presbytery, the Assembly empowered the Commission at their meeting in August, or at any subsequent meeting, to receive any report which the Presbytery of Dunoon may transmit respecting the subject of the foresaid Petition, and to judge therein as they see cause.

The cause of Airdrie delayed till Saturday.

Adjournment.

Friday, May 25. 1798. Sess. 8.

*Sederunt.*

The Report of the Committee on the clause of the Overture from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, respecting the course of University education to be observed by Students previous to their entering the Divinity Hall, was called for, given in, and read. The Assembly unanimously agreed to transmit the same as an Overture to the several Presbyteries of this Church, enjoining them to send up their opinions thereon to next Assembly.

See Printed  
Acts, No. VI.

The Report of the Trustees of the fund established by Act of Parliament for a provision to Ministers Widows, &c. containing an account of their proceedings since last General Assembly, and a state of the fund under their management, given in, and ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow. And, upon a motion,



ABRIDGMENT, 1798.

motion, the thanks of the House were given from the Chair to Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood, for his fidelity, attention and prudence, in the management of the fund.

A Dissent and Complaint by Mr. Robert Home at Polwarth, Dr Robert Douglas at Galashiells, and others, from a Sentence of the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, of 24th October last, respecting the settlement of Mr James Young in the parish of Legertwood, heard : Two several motions were made, and the Roll being called, and votes marked, the Assembly, by a great majority, found, that Mr James Young was not qualified, according to the laws of this Church, to accept the Presentation to the Church of Legertwood ; and, therefore, reversed the sentence of the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale in October last, complained of, recommending to the Presbytery of Lauder to sustain that Presentation : Found, That the Presbytery of Lauder acted with great irregularity in proceeding, as they stated at the bar, to admit Mr James Young, upon the 6th of December last, Minister of Legertwood, notwithstanding the Dissent and Complaint of several Members of the Synod : Annulled all the proceedings of the Presbytery of Lauder in relation to the settlement of the Parish of Legertwood subsequent to the meeting of the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale in October last ; rescinded the settlement of Mr James Young, and declared the Parish of Legertwood vacant, as if no such settlement had taken place. The Assembly appointed an extract of this Sentence to be sent by the Moderator in a letter to George Kerr, Esq; of Moriston, Patron of the Parish of Legertwood ; and appointed the Presbytery of Lauder to meet the second Thursday of June next, in order to appoint supplies for the vacant Parish of Legertwood.

Causes delayed till to-morrow.

Adjournment.

*Saturday, May 26. 1798. Sess. 9.*

*Sederunt.*

The Report of the Committee for naming Members of the Commission of this Assembly, and preparing instructions to them, given in, and approved. The Assembly added thereto Dr Hugh Blair, one of the Ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator ; and also from the Burgh of Wick, Mr James Horne, whose Commission had been rejected on account of informality by the Assembly. See Printed Acts, No. VII.

The Report of the Visitors of the Royal Bounty record given in, and read. The conduct of the Managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a Commission and instructions to them. See Printed Acts, No. VIII.

The Synod Book of Merse and Teviotdale ordered to be attested, with this remark, that the Minutes of the Synods, April 1790, October 1790, and April 1791, are not signed by the respective Moderators.

The

ABRIDGMENT, 1798,

The Report of the Trustees of the fund established by Act of Parliament for a provision to Ministers Widows, &c. again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register kept for that purpose.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him and his cautioners of the sum of L. 504 : 11 : 1<sup>4</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Sterling, disbursed by him, and appointing that he give credit in his next account for the sum of L. 25 : 18 : 1<sup>2</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Sterling, being the balance due by him.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Murray, agent for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him of the sum of L. 118 : 13 : 2 Sterling, disbursed by him, and appointing that he take credit in his next account for the sum of L. 24 : 18 : 2 Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the account of Mr James Dickson, Printer for the Church, and ordering payment thereof.

Act approving of the account of stationary articles furnished to the clerks by Mr Elphinston Balfour, and ordering payment thereof.

Upon a motion made, the Assembly, in addition to the L. 30 allowed by last Assembly, to aid the expence of the appeal relating to the Schoolmaster of Bothwell, authorized the Procurator to advance L. 50 more for that purpose. And at the same time, the Assembly recommended to those Presbyteries of the Church who have not yet subscribed, to give their aid, along with their brethren, to a cause so generally interesting to the Church, and to the country;—and to those Presbyteries who have already subscribed, but not remitted the same, to collect the amount of their subscriptions, and remit the money to Mr William Murray, agent for the Church.

The Assembly having considered a Petition to the Presbytery of Hamilton, for the heritors, feuars, and inhabitants, composing the Congregation of the Chapel of Airdrie, with the procedure of the Presbytery of Hamilton thereupon, unanimously granted the prayer of the Petition of the Congregation; and authorized the Presbytery of Hamilton to ordain a Minister for the said Chapel at Airdrie. And in respect that the ordination of a Minister alters the state of the said Chapel, the Assembly, at the request of the Petitioners, and with the consent and approbation of the Presbytery of Hamilton, unanimously agreed to establish regulations for the said Chapel of Ease at Airdrie.

The Assembly approved of the general spirit of the Overture from the Synod of Fife, relative to the distilling of spirits on the Lord's Day; and understanding that the Procurator, in compliance with the instructions given to him by Assembly 1795, to watch the introduction into Parliament of any Bill respecting the due observation of the Lord's Day, and correspond with the introducer thereof, had actually begun a course of correspondence with Mr Wilberforce, M. P. upon that subject.

ABRIDGMENT, 1798.

ject, they approved of what the Procurator had done; and following out the spirit of the said instructions, and desirous to testify their solicitude about the important subject of the Overture from the Synod of Fife, appointed a standing Committee, consisting of Ministers and Elders of this Church, to co-operate with the Procurator in this important business. Dr Blair to be Convener.

A Petition for the Kirk Session of Orwell, and also a Petition for Mr Spence and Mr Thomson, as Complainers, against a judgment of the Synod of Fife, of 10th April, pronounced in the cause against Mr Andrew Stein, at Hattonburn, read. Parties being first heard on the question, whether the Presbytery of Dunfermline and Synod of Fife acted right in pronouncing a judgment, finding, that the Kirk Session of Orwell ought not to have proceeded in the face of the Appeals taken on the 13th and 20th of March; the Assembly unanimously reversed the sentences of the Presbytery of Dunfermline and Synod of Fife, in so far as they find, that the Session of Orwell ought not to have proceeded in the face of the said Appeals.

The Assembly agreed to resolve themselves into a Committee of the whole House, to proceed immediately to the other points in this cause; and also to consider the cause of Drysdale; and upon a motion made, unanimously agreed to permit the Moderator to retire during the discussion of the Committee.

Adjournment.

*Monday, May 28. 1798. Sess. ult.*

*Sederunt.*

The Report of the Committee of the whole House on the cause, the Kirk Session of Orwell against Andrew Stein, was read, and unanimously approved: Therefore, agreeably to said Report, the Assembly affirmed the sentence of the Synod of Fife, affirming that of the Presbytery of Dunfermline, finding the reasons of appeal frivolous. The Assembly approved highly of the attention of the Kirk Session of Orwell, in guarding against the profanation of the Lord's day: Found that the Proceedings of the Presbytery of Dunfermline and Synod of Fife have been informal and irregular, in all the points not already judged upon by the Assembly; declared the whole proceedings relative to those points to be null and void; and therefore, remitted the whole cause to the Kirk Session of Orwell, with instructions to allow Mr Stein a proof of all facts and circumstances tending to his exculpation; to consider thereafter the amount of the whole proof already taken, together with any farther proof that may be led, and to pronounce judgment in the cause according to the rules of the Church; and authorize their Commission in August, or any subsequent meeting of the Commission, to judge in any reference, complaint, or appeal, that may be brought before them in this cause.

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The Report of the Committee of the whole House on the cause, the Presbytery of Lochmaben against Mr Thomas Henderson, Minister at Drysdale, was read, and unanimously approved: Therefore, agreeably to said Report, the Assembly affirmed the sentence of the Presbytery of Lochmaben, sustaining the relevancy of the libel against Mr Henderson, and instructed the Presbytery to proceed to take probation of the said libel, according to the rules of the Church, with the omission of what is stated in the first article in the second head of the libel, respecting an instance of intoxication said to have happened about ten years ago, which the Assembly found irrelevant.

The Assembly having been informed by the Moderator, that he had received a letter from Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster, Baronet, informing him that the Statistical Account of Scotland is now about to be completed, and expressing a wish that a Copy of the whole Book could be purchased for every Parish within the Kingdom: The General Assembly being sensible of the importance and utility of this Work, and being of opinion that the object suggested to the Moderator is very desirable, recommended it to the Members of Assembly, and to the Ministers of this Church, to consult their different Parishes with regard to the most prudent and effectual means of attaining it.

Reasons of Dissent from the judgment of the Assembly of Tuesday last, sustaining the call to Mr Nivison to be Minister of Penpont, were given in, read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*.

Reasons of Dissent from the judgment of the Assembly of Tuesday last, in the cause of Mr Gairie, were given in, read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*.

Reasons of Dissent from the judgment of the Assembly of Friday last, in the cause of Legertwood, were given in, read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*.

A Petition for Alexander Frazer, merchant in Inverness, with proceedings of the Presbytery of Inverness thereupon, respecting the Erection of a Chapel of Ease in the Town of Inverness, was read. The Assembly having considered the case, and finding that there is the greatest harmony among all parties concerned, unanimously agreed to grant the desire of the Petition of Alexander Frazer and others, Trustees and Managers of the said Chapel of Ease, to be erected in the Town of Inverness, and established regulations for the same.

Upon Report of the Committee for classing Returns to Overtures, the Assembly unanimously agreed to retransmit the former Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers; also the Overture respecting the attendance of Students on the Divinity Hall; and particularly enjoined such Presbyteries as have sent no returns, to send up their opinions to next Assembly; and that Presbyteries shall appoint a day for the consideration of these two Overtures, at their first Meeting after receiving the Printed Acts of Assembly; and that they shall also take into

*ABRIDGMENT, 1798.*

into their consideration on the same day, the Overture respecting the course of University education to be observed by Students, previous to their entering the Divinity Hall, transmitted by this Assembly.

The Report of the Committee on Orkney grievances, given in and read, and the Committee renewed, with the former powers.

The Committee on the Petition of the Ministers of Tongue, Edrachilles and Duirness, reported, That the family of Reay had agreed to pay 5 *per cent.* instead of the 4½, which they have been in use to pay for the fund collected under the authority of the Church, for augmenting the Stipend of these Parishes.

List of Probationers produced, their names read out, and ordered to be recorded.

Protestation admitted at the instance of Robert Deans against Mr John Macleod, Minister of Lerwick, in the Presbytery of Zetland.

Protestation also admitted against the said Mr John Macleod, at the instance of Mr John Menzies, Minister of Bressay, in name of the said Presbytery of Zetland.

A Committee named to revise the Minutes of the Assembly's proceedings at this, and all other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of the Assembly as are to be standing Rules, in order to their being Printed.

The Minutes of this day's Sederunt were read; the Minutes of former Sederunts being read at the diets subsequent thereto.

The Moderator's speech to the Assembly, and to his Grace the Commissioner.

The Lord High Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

Act appointing next diet of Assembly.

The Assembly concluded with Prayer, Singing of Psalms, and pronouncing the Blessing.

See Printed  
Acts, No. XI.

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THE PRINCIPAL  
A C T S  
OF THE  
General Assembly  
OF THE  
C H U R C H  
OF  
S C O T L A N D,

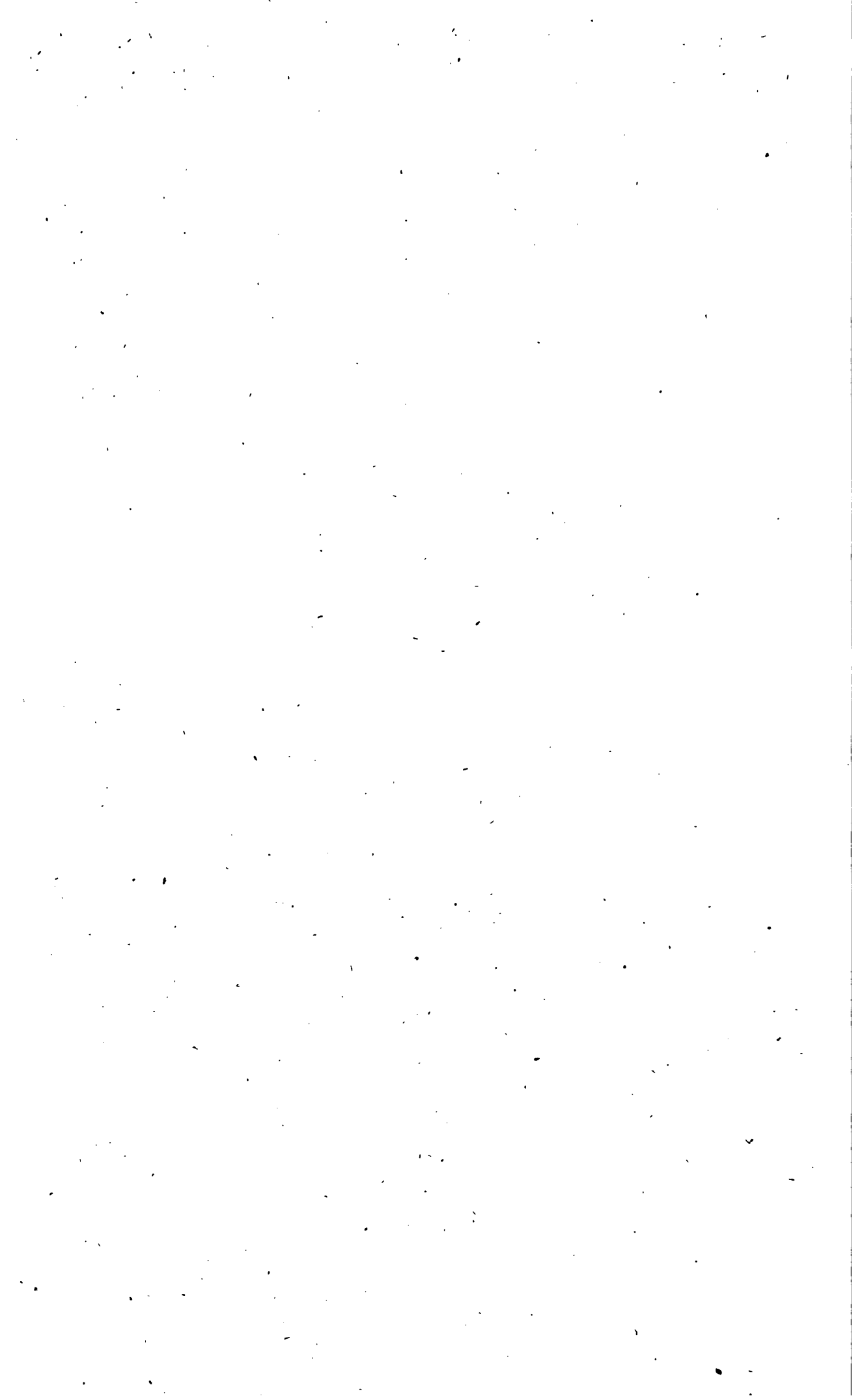
CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, THE 23d DAY OF MAY 1799.

COLLECTED AND EXTRACTED FROM THE RECORDS BY THE CLERK THEREOF.



EDINBURGH:  
PRINTED BY JAMES DICKSON, PRINTER TO THE  
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

M.DCC.XCIX.







THE PRINCIPAL  
**A C T S**  
OF THE  
**General Assembly**  
OF THE  
**CHURCH of SCOTLAND,**

Begun at EDINBURGH, the 23d day of MAY, and  
concluded the 3d day of June 1799.

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I.

The KING's Commission to DAVID Earl  
of LEVEN and MELVILL produced,  
and ordered to be recorded.

*Edinburgh, May 23. 1799.*

**T**HE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National  
CHURCH being convened and constituted,  
there was produced to them, by the Right  
Honourable DAVID EARL of LEVEN and  
MELVILL the KING's Commission, sealed  
with the seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be  
kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of the Great Seal  
of *Scotland*, making and constituting him his Ma-  
jesty's

jefty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly ; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Assembly ;—the tenor whereof follows :

**GEORGIUS**, *Dei gratiâ, Magnæ Britanniae, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor* : Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentēs literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem Nos considerantes, quod Generalis Ecclesiæ Scotiæ Conventus in vigesimum tertium diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit ; Nosque abundè cupidi, et necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem generalis conventus die statuto debitè observetur, atque rebus magni momenti Nos aliò vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus ; Nosque abundè satisfacti de sufficientia et fidelitate fidelissimi et predilectissimi Nostri consanguinei Davidis Comitis de Leven et Melvill, quod ad summum munus Nostri supremi Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum ritè exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus : Noveritis igitur, Nos nominasse, constituisse et ordinasse, tenoreque præsentium, nominare, constituere, et ordinare, memoratum fidelissimum et prædilectissimum Nostrum consanguinium Davidem Comitem de Leven et Melvill, supremum Nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram Nostram Personam et auctoritatem regalem representandi, nec non presentiam Nostram supplendi, et locum Nostrum in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario Nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniæque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plenè adeoque liberè in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius in eodem summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si Nos ipsi personaliter præsentēs facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula, quæ dictus David Comes de Leven et Melvill, in hac Nostra Commissionē prosequenda legitime fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, Nos firmiter approbamus et ratificamus. Insuper omnibus et singulis dicti conventus et ecclesiæ pastoribus et presbyteris, cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britanniae Scotiam vocatam, subditis Nostri, cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum Davidem Comitem de Leven et Melvill, tanquam supremum Nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoscant et audiant, stricte mandamus et præcipimus : Atque hanc Nostram Commissionem à dicto vigesimo tertio die Maii proximi incipere, et deinceps durante subsequente

*sequente sessione dicti generalis conventus in vigore continuare, declaramus, vel usque dum à Nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, presentibus sigillum Nostrum per Unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotiâ vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus. Apud aulam Nostram apud St James's vigesimo quarto die mensis Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo et nonagesimo nono, Regniue Nostrî anno trigesimo nono.*

*Per signaturam manu S. D. N. Regis superscriptam.*



## II.

### The KING's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

**R**IGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well. We have thought fit again to constitute and appoint Our Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousin DAVID, Earl of LEVEN and MELVILL, to be Our Commissioner, and to represent Our Royal Person in the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The manner in which he has heretofore executed this high office, his attachment to Ourselves, and his affection for the Church, fill Us with assurance, that he will adequately answer every purpose of the trust with which he is invested.

We do most solemnly repeat Our determination to maintain and preserve the Church of Scotland in the complete enjoyment of all its just rights and privileges: And We are firmly persuaded, that the conduct of the Church, and the proceedings of the General Assembly, will continue such as to merit Our approbation, and to increase more and more that paternal love with which we unceasingly regard you.

At a time when the very principles of Religion and Morality are denied by some, and confounded by others;

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in these perilous days, when wicked men have derided every thing which is grave, just and holy ; We esteem it a duty to express Our satisfaction at the unabating Zeal, and exemplary Piety, which distinguish the Church of Scotland ; and also to exhort you to undeviating perseverance in the same.

We charge you to be instant at all seasons in seeking after Truth, in defending, teaching and spreading it ; remembering, that the eyes of the whole Church and Nation are upon you, and that your Brethren look to the decisions of the General Assembly, as Rules to guide them in all matters of Doctrine and Discipline.

More particularly, We call upon you to aid, by precept and example, the cause of Religion and Virtue in the world, to dispel the dangerous delusions of an arrogant and vain Philosophy, and of Science falsely so called, and to direct the minds of the People, over whom you individually exercise the pastoral care, to the revealed will of Almighty God.

Finally, We desire your Prayers to the Supreme Disposer of all Events, That he will be pleased to prosper all Our designs for the good of the Church of Scotland, and the advancement of the Christian Religion, to avert from these Kingdoms those errors which have brought Ruin and Desolation upon those who have embraced them. To His Almighty protection We commend you ; and so We bid you heartily farewell. Given at Our Court at St James's, the 17th day of May 1799, in the thirty-ninth year of Our Reign.

By his Majesty's Command,

PORTLAND.

Addressed thus :—*To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved, the Moderator, Ministers and Elders of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

III.



## III.

## The General Assembly's Answer to the KING's most gracious Letter.

*Most Gracious Sovereign,*

**T**HE letter, which it hath pleased Your Majesty to address to this meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was received with the most profound respect and gratitude.

We account ourselves highly honoured by the representation of the Royal Person in our General Assemblies, as the gracious symbol of the connection between the Church and the State. We have beheld with much satisfaction, in many preceding years, this high office committed to a Nobleman, whose warm attachment to Your Majesty, whose hereditary affection for the Church of Scotland, whose steady regard to religion, and whose many amiable virtues, render him eminently qualified to answer every purpose of the trust with which he is invested: And we receive Your Majesty's renewed appointment of the Earl of LEVEN and MELVILL, as a pledge of the paternal love with which You have unceasingly regarded us.

We rely, with entire confidence, upon the solemn assurance of Your Majesty's determination, to maintain and preserve the Church of Scotland in the complete enjoyment of all its just rights and privileges; and we shall study, upon all occasions, to conduct ourselves in such a manner as may entitle us to hope for the continuance of Your Royal approbation.

Your Majesty's Donation of L. 1000 for the propagation of Christian Knowledge in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, was received with the sincerest gratitude, as a renewed instance of Your persevering attention to the religious interests of the People committed to our care; and it shall be our endeavour to apply it, with fidelity, to the pious purpose for which it is bestowed.

Placed

Placed in the perilous days, so well described in Your Majesty's most gracious letter, when the very principles of Religion and Morality are denied by some, and confounded by others; and when wicked men have derided every thing, which is grave and just and holy, we have unspeakable consolation in thinking that we live under the reign of a Prince, whose exemplary piety adorns the throne; who condescends to mention, with approbation, the zeal of the Church of Scotland; who calls us by His authority to an undeviating perseverance in the discharge of our duty, and assures us of all the encouragement and support, which the circumstances of the times require.

We listen, with the most profound respect, to the solemn charge which we receive from Your Majesty: And it is our determined resolution, that, in compliance with that charge, and in fulfilment of the duties of our sacred office, we will, through the strength of the Lord JESUS, be instant, at all seasons, in seeking after truth, in defending, teaching, and spreading it; that we will labour, by precept and by example, to aid the cause of Religion and Virtue in the world; that we will endeavour to dispel the dangerous delusions of an arrogant and vain Philosophy, and of Science falsely so called; and, in all our ministrations, will direct the minds of the people, over whom we exercise the pastoral care, to the revealed will of Almighty God, as the only infallible standard of truth, and perfect rule of manners. We feel the sacred obligations, of which Your Majesty is graciously pleased to remind us, that arise from our being, in the words of our Great Master, 'a city set upon an hill;' and we look up to Him for those influences of his Spirit, which may enable us so to frame our decisions, that they may secure the respect of our brethren, and may guide them in all matters of doctrine and discipline.

Conscious that our exertions, however unremitting and well directed, are of none avail without the blessing of Heaven, we cease not to offer our fervent prayers to the Supreme Disposer of all events, beseeching him to avert from these Kingdoms those errors which have brought ruin and desolation upon all who have embraced them. We bless the LORD our GOD who, because he loved us, hath raised up a succession of Princes in the Illustrious House of HANOVER, to be the nursing Fathers of His Church. We pray that it may please Him to prosper all Your Majesty's designs for the good of the Church of Scotland, and the advancement of the Christian

stian Religion. And, relying upon His Almighty protection, we trust that, under the wise and vigorous administration of Your Majesty's Government, our Ecclesiastical Establishment, which has been cherished with warm affection by the People of Scotland, and which has been the means of diffusing, amongst all ranks, the knowledge and the principles of pure and undefiled Religion, shall be preserved from being shaken by external violence, or undermined by the machinations of secret foes.

That the best blessings of Heaven may descend upon Your MAJESTY, upon our Gracious QUEEN CHARLOTTE, upon the PRINCE and PRINCESS of WALES, and all the Royal Family ;—that Your Majesty may long continue to reign in the hearts of a pious, loyal, free and happy people ;—and that, after swaying the British Sceptre for many years with felicity and renown, you may be received into those regions where an unfading Crown awaits the faithful, are the earnest prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient,

And most loyal Subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,

In our presence, -

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, }  
May 25. 1799. }

WILLIAM MOODIE, *Moderator.*



## IV.

## ADDRESS to HIS MAJESTY on the present Situation of Public Affairs.

*Most Gracious Sovereign,*

**W**E, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in the General Assembly, beg leave to approach the Throne with sentiments of the most affectionate attachment to Your Majesty's Person and Government.

Beholding with reverence the conduct of Providence in the permission of those calamitous events which, for years past, have afflicted and desolated so many of the neighbouring nations, we feel the most lively gratitude to Almighty God, when we contemplate the prosperous condition of Great Britain. Preserved by the wisdom of Your Majesty's Councils, from the traiterous attempts made to disturb its internal tranquillity, this happy country flourishes even in the midst of war, and communicating to its allies a portion of its own vigour, it has been justly regarded as the great bulwark, raised by Divine Providence, for resisting the progress of those destructive principles which threatened the total subversion of religion and good government, in every quarter of the world.

We are sincerely grieved to learn, that there are still among us men insensible to the inestimable blessings we enjoy: But we trust that their numbers are daily decreasing; and Your Majesty may be assured, that the  
Church



Church of Scotland, faithful to her duty, will, in her proper sphere, co-operate zealously with the civil power in counteracting their insidious designs. We have reason to think, that the blessings of Your Majesty's paternal Government, aided by the salutary restraints imposed on the licentious, have already produced a favourable impression on the minds of many of our fellow-subjects, who were formerly discontented : And we are persuaded, that the great body of the people under our charge, notwithstanding the artful endeavours employed to agitate and divide them, continue firmly attached to the religious and civil constitution of their country, and deeply interested in whatever may have any tendency to strengthen its security, and to transmit it unimpaired to the latest posterity.

Amidst the general satisfaction with which we contemplate the state of the country, we embrace, with peculiar pleasure, this first opportunity which our meeting affords us, of congratulating Your Majesty on the splendid naval victories gained in the course of last year by Your Majesty's arms at the mouth of the Nile, and on the coast of Ireland, under the conduct of Lord Nelson, and Sir John Borlase Warren ;—victories honourable in the highest degree to the good and gallant men by whom they were achieved, highly conducive to the national security, and most important in their consequences to the general issue of the war. And while our devout acknowledgments rise to the Lord of Hosts, from whom alone cometh wisdom and strength, on account of the brilliant events, which, under Your Majesty's more immediate administration, have contributed so much to the advantage of the common cause ; we have beheld also, with the most grateful satisfaction, the rapid tide of victory, which has followed of late the arms of Your Majesty's Allies on the Continent : And we cherish the hope, that by a continuation of success, Your Majesty will be soon enabled, in concert with Your Allies, to bring this arduous contest to a termination, glorious to our country, and salutary to the general interests of Europe.

That Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus CHRIST, may protect Your Majesty's person, direct your Councils, and prosper Your Administration ; that he may bless our Gracious Queen, their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family ; and that after reigning long with wisdom and felicity,

licity; over a free, happy and grateful people, You may receive that crown of righteousness which fadeth not away, are the earnest prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most dutiful,

Most faithful,

And most obedient Subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, }  
May 25. 1799.

WILLIAM MOODIE, *Moderator.*



## V.

### Declaratory Act of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, respecting unqualified Ministers and Preachers.

*Edinburgh, May 28. 1799. Sess. 5.*

**T**HE General Assembly having received Overtures, from many Synods, which propose that some effectual regulations shall be made in order to prevent persons not duly qualified from being employed to preach the word, and to dispense the other ordinances of the Gospel in the congregations under the care of the Church; considering

considering that the rules laid down by the Apostles of our Lord, require from all who are invested with the solemn trust of committing the ministry of the word to others, prudence and strictness in the trial and judgment of those whom, in the exercise of that trust, they pronounce faithful and apt to teach ; considering, that the laws of this Church, in conformity to the rules of Scripture, have prescribed a certain previous course of education as necessary for all the Probationers thereof, and have directed the Presbyteries of this Church to employ inquiries and trials of various kinds, in order that they may be fully satisfied concerning the literature, sound doctrine, and steady attachment to our constitution in Church and State, of those who apply to them for a licence to preach the Gospel : And considering further, that the judicial proceedings of the General Assembly, in particular cases, have interpreted and enforced those laws ;—do hereby ENACT and DECLARE, That it is agreeable to the constitution, the laws, and the decisions of this Church, that no Probationer, who has obtained a licence without the bounds of this Church, or who has not obtained a licence from some Presbytery of this Church ; and no ordained person, who did not obtain his licence from a Presbytery of this Church, or who, either by going without the bounds of the Church to obtain ordination, although he was not called to a particular congregation in another country, or by any other part of his conduct, has forfeited the licence which he had obtained, shall be held qualified to accept of a Presentation, or a Call, to any Parish in this Church, or to any Chapel of Ease connected therewith : And the General Assembly do hereby enjoin all the Presbyteries of this Church, if a Presentation or a Call to any such Probationer, or ordained person as is described in this Act, shall at any time be given in to them, instantly to pronounce a sentence, refusing to sustain such Presentation or Call, and declaring it null and void.

And further, the General Assembly considering, that it is of the greatest importance to the interests of true religion, to the sound instruction of the people, to the quiet of their minds, and the peace of the Church and State, that Unqualified Persons, who intrude themselves into the ministry of the word, shall not receive any countenance from the Ministers of this Church ; more especially in the present times, when Men, who avow their hostility to our Ecclesiastical Establishment, and their contempt of all the rules which the wisdom of our ancestors framed, upon the model of Scripture, for

the orderly dispensation of the word and sacraments, are traversing all the districts within the bounds of this Church, and attempting to alienate the minds of the people from their established teachers ; considering also, that it is essential to the unity and good order of the Church, and implied in the fundamental principles of Presbyterian Government, that no Minister shall presume to set up his individual judgment in opposition to the judgment of those to whom, at his ordination, he promised subjection in the LORD ; and that every Minister shall consider himself as answerable to his Presbytery for the manner in which all the parts of Divine Service are performed, during his incumbency, within the stated Place of Worship provided by law for that Congregation which is committed to his care ;—do hereby DISCHARGE and PROHIBIT, under pain of such censures as the Judicatories of this Church may see cause to inflict, all the ministers of this Church, and the Ministers of all Chapels of Ease connected therewith, from employing to preach, upon any occasion, or to dispense any of the other ordinances of the Gospel, within any Congregation under the jurisdiction of this Church, Persons who are not qualified, according to the laws of this Church, to accept of a presentation, and from holding ministerial communion in any other manner with such persons : And the General Assembly do hereby enjoin all the Presbyteries of this Church, to attend to any transgression of this prohibition which may occur within their bounds, and to summon the Minister, who is reported as being guilty of such transgression, to answer for his conduct.

And the Assembly ordain their Clerk to transmit a copy of this Act, separately printed, to each of the Moderators of the Presbyteries of this Church, with an injunction to them, to cause the same to be engrossed in the records of their respective Presbyteries.



## VI.

[*Re-transmitted.*]

## Overture respecting the Attendance of Students on the Divinity Hall.

*Edinburgh, May 29. 1797. Sess. ult.*

**T**HE Committee on the Overture from the Syond of Aberdeen, respecting the attendance of Students on the Divinity Halls, having maturely deliberated on the said Overture, Report to the Venerable Assembly, That, in their opinion, it ought to be expressed in the following terms, *viz.* “It is Overtured, that Students “in Divinity, who propose to prosecute their studies “for six Sessions, should be required to give as much “partial attendance, during the currency of those Sessions, in the Divinity Halls, which they respectively “attend, as shall, in the whole, amount to six months.”

The General Assembly approved of the above report, and ordered the same to be transmitted, as an Overture, for the consideration of Presbyteries.

## VII.



## VII.

[*Re-transmitted.*]

*Edinburgh, May 25. 1798. Sess. 8.*

*Upon the Report of the Committee on the clause of the Overture from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, respecting the course of University Education, to be observed by Students previous to their entering the Divinity Hall, the General Assembly unanimously agreed to transmit the following Overture on that subject, to the several Presbyteries of this Church, enjoining them to send up their opinions thereon to the next Assembly.*

### **Overture respecting the Course of University Education, to be observed by Students, previous to their entering the Divinity Hall.**

**W**HEREAS it has been represented, That Students intended for the holy Ministry, do sometimes hurry over their course of Philosophy in two Sessions of the University, it is overtured, that it be recommended to Students, previous to their entering a Divinity Hall, to study Literature and Philosophy at an University, during a course of five complete Sessions, in the following order, *viz.*

Session 1<sup>st</sup>, Humanity or Latin, with the Elements of Greek, in the first Humanity and Greek Classes.

Session 2<sup>d</sup>, Latin and Greek, in the higher Humanity and Greek Classes; with the Elements of Mathematics.

Session 3<sup>d</sup>, Logic, with Greek and Mathematics in the higher Classes.

Session 4<sup>th</sup>, } Natural and Moral Philosophy; but not  
Session 5<sup>th</sup>, } both in the same Session; together with  
Latin

Latin again, or Greek, or Mathematics, in one or more of the higher Classes.

But that it shall be expressly enacted, That no Professor of Divinity shall admit any Student into the Divinity Hall, until he produce certificates of his having studied at an University, during three complete Sessions, in the following Classes, *viz.* Logic, together with Greek in the higher Greek Class; and Natural and Moral Philosophy; it being, in this case, understood, that such Students are well grounded in Latin, and the Elements of Greek, previous to their entering the University.



## VIII.

[*Re-transmitted.*]

Edinburgh, May 28. 1798. *Seff. ult.*

*UPON the Report of the Committee for classing returns to Overtures,—The Assembly unanimously agreed to retransmit the Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers; also the Overture respecting the Attendance of Students on the Divinity Hall; and particularly, enjoin such Presbyteries as have sent no returns, to send up their Opinions to next Assembly; and that Presbyteries shall appoint a day for the consideration of these two Overtures at their first Meeting after receiving the printed Acts of Assembly; and that they shall also take into their consideration on the same day, the Overture respecting the Course of University Education, to be observed by Students previous to their entering the Divinity Hall, transmitted by this Assembly.*

## New Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers.

Edinburgh, May 25. 1792. *Seff. 8.*

**T**HE General Assembly having taken under their serious consideration, the great danger to which the interests of Religion and of this Church may be exposed

posed, by licencing any to preach the Gospel who are not duly qualified for that important trust, do hereby enact and ordain, That in all time coming the following regulations shall be strictly observed :

I. It is hereby enacted, That no Student shall be entered upon the Roll of any Professor of Divinity, unless he shall produce to the said Professor a certificate from the Minister of the parish in which he has his usual residence ; or in his absence, or during a vacancy in said parish, from some neighbouring Minister, bearing, that his character is suitable to his views ; together with a diploma of Master of Arts, or certificates from the several Professors of Philosophy, under whom he hath studied, from which it may be clearly ascertained that, in some University or Universities, he hath gone through a full course of Philosophy, in some winter-sessions of College preceding that in which the certificates are produced.

II. The General Assembly do likewise hereby ordain, That all Students who have been inrolled by Professors of Divinity, in the manner prescribed by this act, shall continue to prosecute the study of Divinity for the term of six Sessions : Provided always, That if any Student hath given regular attendance in the Divinity Hall during three Sessions, his Course shall be considered as completed in four Sessions ; and that if he hath given regular attendance in the Hall during two Sessions, his Course shall be considered as completed in five Sessions. And the Assembly do further ordain, That in each of these cases, Students shall be inrolled by the Professors during the several Sessions of their respective Courses, and deliver in the Divinity Hall, in the manner herein afterwards provided, an Exegesis in Latin, on some controverted Head in Divinity, a Homily in English, an Exercise and Addition, a Lecture on some large portion of Scripture, and a popular Sermon, together with such other exercises as the Professors shall think proper to prescribe. And the Assembly further enact and declare, That a Student is entitled to apply to the Professor for his certificates, that he may be proposed for trials, and that the preliminary steps may be taken by the Presbytery during the currency of the last Session of his Course, as above described ; with this limitation, that if the said last Session is to be claimed as a Session of regular attendance, he shall, toward the conclusion thereof, obtain



tain a new certificate of his attendance during its currency, and produce the same to the Presbytery or Synod.

III. Professors of Divinity are required to attend, as much as circumstances may permit, to the conduct of such Students as are under their care, and, as far as they find it practicable, to insist that every Student shall deliver his first Discourse some time during his second Session, at the latest, and the remainder of his Discourses at such periods as may enable him to deliver the whole of them before the end of January of the last Session of his Course.

IV. When a Student is proposed to any Presbytery, in order to be taken upon trials, the Presbytery shall be alone, and the motion for that purpose shall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting. In the mean time, the Presbytery shall appoint the Member by whom the Student has been proposed, to lay before the said meeting the certificate or certificates in favour of the Student, that are specified in the third paragraph of the fifth section of this act; to desire him to attend the same; and to inform him, that, previously to the meeting, he ought, as far as circumstances may permit, to wait on such Ministers of the Presbytery as have not formerly had an opportunity of conversing with him in private.

V. When the time appointed for considering the motion is arrived, the Presbytery shall strictly observe the following regulations.

1<sup>st</sup>, The Presbytery shall be alone, while they are employed in discussing the several preliminaries respecting Students who are proposed for trials.

2<sup>d</sup>, They shall require satisfying evidence, that every Student who is proposed for that purpose has completed the twenty-first year of his age.

3<sup>d</sup>, No Student shall be admitted to trials, unless he produces to the Presbytery a certificate or certificates from the Professor or Professors of Divinity, under whose tuition he hath studied, bearing, that he hath prosecuted his studies, and delivered his Discourses, in the manner prescribed by this act; and that his conduct, as far as consists with the knowledge of the said Professor, or Professors, has been in every respect suitable to his views in life. And the General Assembly do likewise hereby enact, That the Presbytery shall record at full length

length the said certificate, or certificates, in their minutes: And it is hereby enacted and declared, That the Student having lodged such certificate or certificates, shall be entitled to obtain extracts of the same, if demanded.

*4th*, No Presbytery shall receive any Student upon trials, unless they are satisfied that he is of good report; sound in his principles; pious, sober, grave, and prudent, in his behaviour; of a peaceable disposition; and well affected to the happy establishment in this kingdom, both in Church and State. And, that the Presbytery may proceed with all due caution, in a matter of such peculiar importance, they shall not agree to the motion in behalf of the Student, unless his residence, during the year proceeding, has been chiefly within their bounds, or he shall produce sufficient testimonials from the Presbytery, in whose bounds his residence has chiefly been, during that term, bearing, that his character is such as is described in the immediately preceding sentence of this paragraph, and recommending him, in these respects, to the Presbytery before whom the proposal is made, as a proper person to be entered upon trials.

*5th*, The Presbytery shall not agree to the motion in favour of the Student, unless they are satisfied that he has made a competent degree of proficiency in those several branches of knowledge which are necessary to enable him to be an useful Preacher of the Gospel. And the General Assembly ordain, that the Presbytery, in order to procure full information in this respect, shall examine the Student strictly, and privately, on his knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, and of Philosophy and Theology.

*6th*, If, after these preliminary steps have been taken, the Presbytery shall be of opinion that the Student is duly qualified in these several particulars, they shall record this opinion in their minutes, and order their clerk to write letters to the several Presbyteries within the bounds of the Provincial Synod, two kalendar months at least before the meeting of the same, informing them of the Presbytery's intention to take the Student upon Public Trials, and bearing, that the certificate, or certificates in his favour, which are required by this act, have been regularly laid before them. But it is hereby provided, That within the bounds of such Synods as meet only once a-year, a Student may be entitled to have these circular letters written half a-year sooner than would be otherwise competent.

VI. The

VI. The General Assembly do likewise hereby enact and declare, That, at the request of the Student, it shall be competent to any Presbytery to transfer the receiving of the Public Trials, or any part thereof, certifying to the Presbytery to which the transference is to be made, that the various preliminary steps have been taken according to the directions of this act; and that such parts of the Public and Private Trials as have been already gone through have been received with approbation.

VII. If a Student have studied, either in whole or in part, in Protestant Universities, which are not within the bounds of this Church, he shall, when he is proposed to any Presbytery for trials, be required to produce satisfying testimonials from the Professors of Divinity in said Universities; and the time which these professors shall certify to have been employed by him in studying Divinity under their tuition, shall be computed in the same manner as if he had prosecuted his studies in any of the Universities within the bounds of this Church. But it is hereby provided, That no Student, in such circumstances, shall be admitted even to those private trials which are appointed to be taken before the writing of the circular letters, sooner than six kalendar months after his arrival in Scotland.

VIII. The General Assembly ordain, That, if a Presbytery propose to take a Student upon Public Trials, and have, with that view, written the circular letters, as is herein required, public intimation thereof shall be made at some diet of the next meeting of the Provincial Synod, which shall not be the last diet thereof: And the Presbytery clerk is hereby required to transmit to the Synod clerk an extract of the certificate or certificates laid before the Presbytery in favour of the Student, in order that the same may be produced at this diet of the Synod. And it is likewise hereby ordained, That at some subsequent diet of the Synod, particular inquiry shall be made, whether any of the members of the Court has any objection to offer against the Student being entered upon Public Trials: And that the Synod then, taking into consideration the extract produced, and the whole of the case, shall judge of the expediency of allowing the Presbytery to admit the Student on trials: Or, if in any case the Presbytery clerk shall fail to transmit the extracts of the certificates above mentioned, the Student may produce to the Synod, by himself, or by

any Member of the Court, the extract of the same, which by this act he is entitled to obtain.

IX. If the Synod shall allow the Student to be taken upon Public Trials, the Presbytery shall proceed therein with all convenient speed; and the Assembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the Student, and in the order herein mentioned: *1st*, Catechetic trials on Divinity, Chronology, and Church History; *2d*, A trial on the Hebrew and Greek languages; *3d*, An Exegesis in Latin on some controverted Head in Divinity; *4th*, A Homily in English; *5th*, An Exercise and Addition; *6th*, A Lecture on some large portion of Scripture; *7th*, A popular Sermon; it being understood, that if the Presbytery see cause, they may examine the Student upon the subject of these several Discourses.

X. The Student having gone through the several trials, which are mentioned in the immediately preceding section of this act, the Presbytery are ordained to proceed in the following order.

*1st*, They shall, deliberately and seriously, take a conjunct view of the whole trials; and if they shall be of opinion, that the Student is not properly qualified to perform the duties incumbent upon a Preacher of the Gospel, they shall by no means grant him a License in his present circumstances.

*2d*, If, upon this review of the trials, the Presbytery are fully satisfied therewith, they shall record this opinion in their minutes.

*3d*, The Presbytery shall then propose to the Student the questions that are appointed to be put to all who pass Trials by act 10th, Assembly 1711, and require him to subscribe the *Formula* which is prescribed by the said act. And the General Assembly strictly prohibit all Presbyteries from licensing any Student to preach the Gospel, who shall not give explicit and satisfying answers to these questions, and subscribe the said *Formula*.

*4th*, The Presbytery shall order the act of Assembly 1759, against Simoniackal practices, to be read to the Student in their presence.

*Lastly*, The Presbytery shall appoint their Moderator to license the Student to preach the Gospel, and order their Clerk to furnish him with an extract of his license.

XI. For

XI. For the better observance of this act, the General Assembly ordain, *1st*, That it shall be printed among their other printed acts: *2d*, That it shall be printed by itself, in some convenient form; *3d*, That a copy of this separate edition shall be transmitted to each Professor of Divinity in the Universities of Scotland; and that the said Professors shall read the same in their respective Halls, once at least during every Session, and at such times as they have reason to expect the attendance of the greatest number of Students for that Session; and, *lastly*, That a copy of the same edition shall likewise be transmitted to the Clerks of each Synod and Presbytery, within the bounds of this Church, and that the said Clerks shall keep the same along with their minutes, and bring it up to each meeting of their respective Courts, for the use of the Members.



## IX.

### COMMISSION of the General Assembly to certain Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing affairs referred to them.

Edinburgh, June 1. 1799. Sess. 9.

**T**HE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do nominate, commission and appoint, the Reverend Dr WILLIAM MOODIE, one of the ministers of the City, and Professor of Hebrew in the University, of Edinburgh, their Moderator: And,—From the *Presbytery* of *Strathbogie*, Mr Alexander Angus at Botriphnie, Mr John Finlater at Glasf, *Ministers*; Mr Baron Gordon, *Ruling Elder*: — From the *Presbytery* of *Aberlour*, Mr George, Cruikshank at Rothies, Mr William Spence at Inveraven, *Ministers*; The Honourable Arthur Duff, Esq; of Orton, *Ruling Elder*: — From the *Presbytery* of *Abernethy*, Mr Patrick Grant at Duthil, Mr Gregor Grant at Cromdale *Ministers*;

*Ministers*; Dr Gregory Grant, physician in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Elgin*, Mr William Gordon at Elgin, Mr James Gillan at Speymouth, *Ministers*; The Most Noble the Marquis of Huntly, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Elgin*, Mr William Blair, writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery* of *Forres*, Mr David Miln at Edinkellie, Mr William Stephen at Rufford, *Ministers*; George Cumin of Relugas, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Forres*, Mr Robert Gordon, writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery* of *Nairn*, Mr Hugh Calder at Croy, Mr Donald Mitchell at Ardclach, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Grant, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Inverness*, Mr Alexander Frazer at Inverness, Mr William Smith at Petty, *Ministers*; Simon Frazer of Faraline, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Ghanonry*, Mr Robert Arthur at Kirkmichael and Cullicuden, Mr Roderick Mackenzie at Kilmuir Wester, *Ministers*; Mr William Sprott, Solicitor at Law, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Tain*, Mr Alexander Monro at Edderton, Mr Angus Macintosh at Tain, *Ministers*; Charles Ross, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dingwall*, Mr James Dallas at Contin, Mr Daniel Rose at Dingwall, *Ministers*; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Aber-tarph*, Mr Patrick Grant of Bolekean, Mr Thomas Ross at Kilmanivaig, *Ministers*; Coll Macdonald, Esq; of Dalness, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Sky*, Mr Donald Mackinnon at Strath, Mr Donald Maclean at Small Isles, *Ministers*; The Right Honourable Lord Macdonald, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Uist*, Mr Edmund Macqueen at Barra, Dr John Macleod at Harris, *Ministers*; Mr Hector Macdonald Buchanan, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lochcarron*, Mr Colin Maciver at Glenelg, Mr Lauchlan Mackenzie at Lochcarron, *Ministers*; Bailie Daniel Miller, merchant, Canongate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Tongue*, Mr William Thomson at Durness, Mr James Dingwall at Farr, *Ministers*; Mr William Maclean, merchant, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Caitbness*, Mr George Mackenzie at Olrick, Mr William Smith at Bower, *Ministers*; Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster, Baronet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Wick*, Mr James Horne, writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkwall*, Mr James Watson at South Ronaldsay, Mr Robert Yule at Kirkwall, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Gordon

don, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Cairstone*, Mr John Malcolm at Firth and Stenness, Mr Gavin Hamilton at Hoy and Græmesay, *Ministers* ; Commissioner Reid, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *North Isles*, Mr William Grant at Crofs Parish, Mr James Paterfon at Rousay, *Ministers* ; Commissioner Grieve, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Zetland*, Mr James Sands at Tingwall, Mr John Nicolson at Unst, *Ministers* ; Professor Andrew Dalzel, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Edinburgh*, Dr William Gloag, Edinburgh, Dr John Walker at Colington, Dr Thomas Davidson, Edinburgh, Mr Robert Walker, Canongate, Mr David Black, Edinburgh, Mr James Grant at Liberton, *Ministers* ; Andrew Wauchope, Esq; of Niddry Marshall, Bailie George Spankie, Ephraim Lockart, Esq; of the Customs, Leith, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *City* of *Edinburgh*, The Right Honourable Sir James Stirling, Baronet, Lord Provost of the City, Mr William Rankin, Convener of the Trades :—From the *Presbytery* of *Linlithgow*, Mr Walter Jardine at Bathgate, Mr James Rhind at Whitburn, Mr John Ferguson at Uphall, Mr James Robertson at Slamannan, *Ministers* ; The Right Honourable Lord Torphichen, Mr John Meek, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Burgh* of *Linlithgow*, Robert Blair, Esq; of Avonton, His Majesty's Solicitor-General :—From the *Burgh* of *Queensferry*, Mr James Taylor, shipmaster in Queensferry :—From the *Presbytery* of *Biggar*, Mr John Gordon at Dolphington, Mr William Porteous at Kilbucho, Mr John Alpine at Skirling, *Ministers* ; Mr David Stodart, tenant at Easton of Dunfyre, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Peebles*, Dr William Dalgliesh at Peebles, Mr Patrick Robertson at Eddleston, *Ministers* ; James Montgomery, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh* of *Peebles*, Mr Thomas Cranstoun, writer to the Signet :—From the *Presbytery* of *Dalkeith*, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr Ebenezer Marshall at Cockpen, Mr Leslie Moodie at Newton, *Ministers* ; The Right Honourable the Lord Advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery* of *Haddington*, Dr Robert Lorimer at Haddington, Mr Andrew Nisbet at Garvald, Mr George Goldie at Athelstoneford, *Ministers* ; William Law, Esq; of Elvingstone, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh* of *Haddington*, Robert Roughead, Esq; present Provost of Haddington :—From the *Burgh* of *North Berwick*, Sir Hew Hamilton Dalrymple of Bargeny and North Berwick :—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunbar*, Mr Alexander Davidson at Stenton, Mr An-

drew Spence at Cockburnpath, *Ministers*; The Honourable Charles, Earl of Hadinton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunse*, Mr William Simpson at Greenlaw, Mr James Baird at Eccles, *Ministers*; Mr Mathew Sandilands, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Cburnside*, Dr Walter Anderson at Churnside, Mr Robert Scott at Coldstream, *Ministers*; George Buchan, Esq; of Kello, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kelfo*, Mr Robert Turnbull at Sprouston, Mr Robert Robertson at Ednam, *Ministers*; Sir James Pringle of Stitchell, Baronet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Jedburgh*, Mr William Brown at Bedrule, Mr David Brown at Crailing, Dr Thomas Sommerville at Jedburgh, *Ministers*; Mr James Dickson, merchant, Hawick, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lauder*, Mr William Shiells at Westruther, Mr Henry Garnock at Legertwood, *Ministers*; George Baillie, Esq; of Jerviswood, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Selkirk*, Mr Charles Paton at Etterick, Mr James Hay at Robertson, *Ministers*; Mark Pringle, Esq; of Clifton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Selkirk*, Mr Alexander Cunningham, jeweller in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Annan*, Mr Alexander Monelaws at Kirkpatrick Fleming, Mr John Morgan at Gratnay, *Ministers*; Joseph Norres, Esq; of Newfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Langholm*, Mr John Russell at Canoby, Mr William Brown at Elkdalemuir, *Ministers*; Mr John Peat, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lochmaben*, Mr William Sibbald at Johnston, Mr William Singer at Wamphray, Mr David Dickson at St Mungo, *Ministers*; Mr Henry Jardine, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Lochmaben*, Mr William Johnston, writer, Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery* of *Penpont*, Mr James Wilson at Tynron, Mr John Williamson at Duresdeer, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Black in Glencairn, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dumfries*, Dr David Lamont at Kirkpatrick Durham, Dr William Burnside at Dumfries, Mr Joseph Eiston at Troquir, *Ministers*; Thomas Crichton, younger of Auchinskeoch, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Dumfries*, Mr Hugh Corrie, writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkcudbright*, Dr Robert Muter at Kirkcudbright, Mr Robert Gordon at Carsfairn, Mr Alexander Macgown at Dalry, *Ministers*; James Gordon, younger of Culvenan, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Wigton*, Mr John Jeffrey, writer, Edinburgh:—From the *Burgh* of *Whitborn*, Mr John Bushby, Sheriff.



Sheriff-clerk of Dumfries :—From the *Presbytery of Stranraer*, Mr William Rose at Kirkcolm, Mr Andrew Mac-cubbin at Lefwalt, *Ministers* ; Mr Thomas Adair, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Stranraer*, Mr Thomas Smith, one of the Principal Clerks to the Bills :—From the *Presbytery of Ayr*, Dr Thomas Miller at Old Cumnock, Mr Stephen Young at Barr, Dr William Peebles at Newton upon Ayr, Mr John Lindsay at Auchinleck, Mr Robert Steven at Dalrymple, *Ministers* ; Thomas Kennedy, Esq; of Denure, James Fergusson, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Burgh of Ayr*, George Fergusson, Esq; Advocate :—From the *Presbytery of Irvine*, Mr John Fullarton at Dalry, Mr James Richmond at Irvine, Dr William Ritchie at Kilwinning, *Ministers* ; David Boyle, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Paisley*, Mr Robert Anderson at Eastwood, Mr James Smith at Abbey Church, Mr William Hood at Neilston, Mr Jonathan Ranken at Paisley, *Ministers* ; Robert Barclay, Esq; Chief Magistrate of Paisley, Archibald Campbell, Esq; younger of Clathick, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Presbytery of Hamilton*, Mr John Scott at Avendale, Mr Alexander Fleming at Hamilton, Mr John Robertson at Cambuslang, *Ministers* ; Professor George Jardine, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Lanark*, Mr George Mark at Carnwath, Mr William Maccubbin at Douglas, *Ministers* ; John Fullarton, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Glasgow*, Dr William Taylor at Glasgow, Mr Robert Balfour at Glasgow, Mr Archibald Proven at Cadder, Mr William Finlay at Eaglesham, *Ministers* ; Sir John Stirling of Glorat, Baronet, Mr Andrew Paton, merchant in Glasgow, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *City of Glasgow*, John Dunlop, Esq; of Rosebank :—From the *Burgh of Rutherglen*, Mr James Davidson, writer to the Signet :—From the *Presbytery of Dumbarton*, Mr David Macgibbon at Buchanan, Mr John Mitchell at Fintray, Mr William Macartney at Old Kilpatrick, *Ministers* ; The Right Honourable the Lord President, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Dumbarton*, Archibald Campbell younger of Succoth, Esq; :—From the *Presbytery of Dunoon*, Mr Archibald Maclea at Rothsay, Mr Hugh MacTavish at Inverchaolan, *Ministers* ; John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Rothsay*, William Macleod Bannatyne, Esq; of Kames, (now one of the Senators of the College of Justice) :—From the *Presbytery of Kintyre*, Dr John Smith at Campbelton, Mr William Fraser at Gigha, Mr James Mackintosh,

at

at Killarow, *Ministers*; Robert Davidfon, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Campbelton*, William Campbell, Esq; of Fairfield:—From the *Burgh of Inverary*, Humphrey Trawfurd Campbell, Esq; younger of Ashniff:—From the *Presbytery of Lorn*, Dr Joseph Macintyre at Glenorchy, Mr Alexander Macintyre at Kilchrenan, *Ministers*; John Campbell of Lochend, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Mull*, Mr Alexander Campbell at Ardnamurchan, Mr Archibald Macarthur at Kilninian, *Ministers*; Randal Macdonald, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Dunkeld*, Mr William Innerarity at Caputh, Mr Alexander Niven at Dunkeld, Mr Alexander Stewart at Moulin, Mr Laurence Butter at Lethindy, *Ministers*; John Haggart, Esq; Advocate, Mr John Macritchie, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery of Perth*, Mr Lewis Dunbar at Kinnoul, Mr John Inglis at Tibbermuir, Mr William Aitken at Scone, Mr John Duff at Kinfauns, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Beatson, writer to the Signet, Bailie James Dickson, bookseller, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery of Stirling*, Mr Robert Ure senior at Airth, Mr John Watson at Dollar, *Ministers*; William Murray, Esq; of Touchadam, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Auchterarder*, Mr John Scott at Muthill, Mr Colin Baxter at Monyvaird, Mr Patrick Macisaac at Gask, *Ministers*; Patrick Murray, younger of Auchtertyre, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Dunblane*, Mr Christopher Tait at Kincardine, Mr John Campbell at Kippen, *Ministers*; Mr William Campbell, writer, Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery of Dunfermline*, Mr David Balfour at Toryburn, Mr Walter Macalpin at Culrofs, Mr William Daling at Cliesh, *Ministers*; Sir Charles Preston of Velayfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Kirkcaldy*, Mr George Shaw at Abbotshall, Mr Andrew Grant at Portmoak, Mr George Muirhead at Dyfart, *Ministers*; Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Ayton of Inchdairney, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Bruntisland*, Mr Andrew Isedale, merchant, Bruntisland:—From the *Presbytery of Cupar*, Dr Samuel Martin at Monymeal, Dr Andrew Brown at Falkland, Mr Joseph Crichton at Ceres, Mr John Cook at Kilmeny, *Ministers*; George Greenlaw of Hilton, Esq; Mr Walter Cook, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery of St Andrew's*, Professor Charles Wilson, St Mary's College, Mr Alexander Small at Kilconquhar, Mr James Hunter at Deninno, Mr James Clerk at Ely, *Ministers*; Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Monypenny of

of Pitmilley, Professor John Rotheram, United College, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh of St Andrew's*, Joseph Maccormick, Esq; Advocate:—From the *University of St Andrew's*, Dr George Hill, Principal of St Mary's College:—From the *Burgh of Crail*, Mr Thomas Weir, writer, Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery of Meigle*, Mr James Stormonth at Airly, Mr Patrick Maclaren at Ruthven, Mr William Haldane at Glenisla, *Ministers*; Sir William Ramsay of Banff, Baronet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Forfar*, Mr James Lyon at Glamis, Mr John Bruce at Forfar, *Ministers*; Professor Henry David Hill, St Andrew's:—From the *Presbytery of Dundee*, Mr William Maul at Moneikie, Mr Charles Cunningham at Lundie and Foulis, Mr Patrick Macvicar at Dundee, *Ministers*; George Paterfon, Esq; of Castlehuntly, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Aberbrothock*, Mr James Will at Guthrie, Mr David Traill at Panbride, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Milne, merchant, Canongate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Brechin*, Mr Robert Hannah at Strickathrow, Mr Alexander Burnet at Caralstone, Mr James Burns at Brechin, *Ministers*; Charles Hope, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Fordoun*, Mr James Walker at Dunnotter, Mr Robert Croll at Bervie, Mr George Cook at Laurencekirk, *Ministers*; John Burnett, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Aberdeen*, Mr William Strachan at Durris, Dr William Laurence Brown, Principal, Marischall College, Aberdeen, Dr Gilbert Gerard, Professor of Divinity in King's College, Mr George Allan at Newhills, *Ministers*; William Robertson, Esq; Procurator for the Church, William Simpson, Esq; Cashier to the Royal Bank, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery of Kincardine O'Neal*, Mr George Brown at Glenmuick, Mr Robert Farquharson at Coldstone, Mr Alexander Henderson at Echt, *Ministers*; William Macdonald, Esq; of Renetton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Alford*, Mr Thomas Birnie at Alford, Mr William Spence at Glenbucket, Mr Alexander Urquhart at Touch, *Ministers*; James Gordon, Esq; younger of Craig, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Ellon*, Mr Thomas Tait at Ellon, Mr George Pirie at Slains, *Ministers*; Professor Hugh Macleod, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Garioch*, Mr John Shand at Chapel Garioch, Mr Patrick Mitchell at Kemnay, Mr William Cock at Culsalmond, *Ministers*; Mr William Gordon of Rothney, writer to

the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Deer*, Mr William Anderson, at St Fergus, Mr James Greig at Pitligo, Mr William Greig at Longside, *Ministers*; Mr John Taylor, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Turriff*, Mr Robert Duff at King Edward, Mr William Stuart at Turriff, *Ministers*; Mr Archibald Milne, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Fordyce*, Mr Alexander Humphry at Fordyce, Mr Alexander Gray at Ordiquhill, *Ministers*; Mr George Andrew, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—And the General Assembly added thereto, Dr James Finlayson, one of the Ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator: and also from the *Burgh of Rensfrew*, Mr John Connell, Advocate, whose commission had been rejected on account of informality; TO BE COMMISSIONERS of this General Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to choose their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully empowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other

other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year One thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here inserted; and that they inquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books and pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission, to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise, to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorized by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correspondence with the Committee for reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them, as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by, the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies

blies One thousand seven hundred and twelve, and One thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money ; which two acts are printed among the acts of Assembly One thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed ; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission ; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Assembly held in the year One thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission ; and such of the members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them, to give attendance on the diets thereof ; and the Presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same : And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlement of vacant churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been some time the practice, but shall allow the same to lie over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th act of the Assembly One thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.



## X.

COMMISSION to some Ministers and  
Ruling Elders, for the Reformation  
of the Highlands and Islands of Scot-  
land, and for managing his Majesty's  
Royal Bounty for that End.

*Edinburgh, June 1. 1799. Sess. 9.*

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr WILLIAM MOODIE, one of the Ministers of the City, and Professor of Hebrew in the University, of Edinburgh, their Moderator, all the Ministers who are members of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Angus, Mr George Cruickshank, Mr Patrick Grant, Mr William Gordon, Mr David Milne, Mr Hugh Calder, Mr Alexander Fraser, Mr Robert Arthur, Mr Alexander Munro, Mr Daniel Rose, Mr James Dallas, Mr Patrick Grant, Mr Donald Mackinnon, Dr John Macleod, Mr Colin Maciver, Mr James Dingwall, Mr William Smith, Mr James Watson, Mr John Malcolm, Mr William Grant, Mr James Sands, Mr James Rhynd, Mr John Gordon, Dr William Dalgliesh, Dr Alexander Carlyle, Mr George Goldie, Mr Alexander Davidson, Mr William Simpson, Dr Walter Anderson, Mr Robert Turnbull, Mr William Brown, Mr William Shiels, Mr Charles Paton, Mr John Morgan, Mr John Russell, Mr William Sibbald, Mr James Wilson, Dr David Lamont, Mr Stephen Young, Dr William Ritchie, Mr Robert Anderson, Mr John Scott, Dr William Taylor, Mr David Macgibbon, Mr Archibald Maclea, Mr William Fraser, Dr Joseph Macintyre, Mr Alexander Campbell, Mr Alexander Niven, Mr John Inglis, Mr Patrick Macisaac, Mr John Campbell, Mr

David Balfour, Mr George Shaw, Dr Samuel Martin, Mr James Clerk, Dr George Hill, Mr James Stormonth, Mr James Lyon, Mr William Maule, Mr James Will, Mr Robert Hannah, Mr James Walker, Dr Gilbert Gerard, Mr George Brown, Mr Thomas Birnie, Mr Thomas Tait, Mr John Shand, Mr William Anderson, Mr Robert Duff, Mr Alexander Humphry, Mr Macintosh at Tain, *Ministers*; Mr Baron Gordon, Dr Gregory Grant, The Marquis of Huntly, Mr George Cumin, Mr Robert Gordon, Mr Alexander Grant, Simon Fraser, Esq; Mr William Sprott, Charles Ross, Esq; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, Mr Coll Macdonald, the Right Honourable Lord Macdonald, Mr Hector Macdonald Buchanan, Bailie Daniel Miller, Mr William Maclean, Sir John Sinclair, Baronet, Mr James Horne, Mr Thomas Gordon, Commissioner Reid, Commissioner Grieve, Professor Dalzel, Andrew Wauchope, Esq; Bailie George Spankie, Ephraim Lochart, Esq; The Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Convener Ranken, Lord Torphichen, Mr John Meek, Mr Solicitor-General, James Montgomery, Esq; Mr Thomas Cranston, The Lord Advocate, William Law, Esq; Sir Hew Hamilton Dalrymple, the Earl of Hadinton, Mr Mathew Sandilands, George Buchan, Esq; Sir James Pringle, Baronet, Mr Alexander Cunningham, Mr Joseph Norris, Mr John Peat, Mr Henry Jardine, Mr William Johnston, Mr Hugh Corrie, Mr John Jaffrey, Mr Thomas Smith, James Fergusson, Esq; George Fergusson, Esq; David Boyle, Esq; Archibald Campbell, Esq; of Clathick, Professor George Jardine, John Dunlop, Esq; Mr James Davidson, The Lord President, Archibald Campbell, Esq; John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; Lord Bannatyne, Robert Davidson, Esq; William Campbell, Esq; of Fairfield, Ranald Macdonald, Esq; John Hagart, Esq; Mr John Macritchie, Mr Alexander Beatson, Bailie James Dickson, Mr William Campbell, Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Ayton, Mr Walter Cook, Mr Thomas Weir, John Burnett, Esq; The Procurator, Mr William Macdonald, Professor Hugh Macleod, Mr William Gordon, Mr John Taylor, Mr Archibald Milne, Mr George Andrew, *Ruling Elders*; TO BE A COMMITTEE of this Assembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty for these ends, according to, and in terms of his Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most



most proper, according to his Majesty's design, expressed in His warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified and found, upon due trial; to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation; prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of, the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and, in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee to have a particular regard, in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Assemblies; and to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert, in their registers, the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations, of the several Missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said Missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning Missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator  
or

or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the Missionaries, except upon receipts from the Missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, that they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts; and that every Catechist, who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners, or gentlemen of the district, shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to the Cashier, a declaration, that he has received the particular sum specified; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall, in like manner, bear, that the Catechist has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no such declaration of the Catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the Cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the Catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty: That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the Missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned, who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named, as Members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be Ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of Missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be Ministers: and the said Committee are appointed to have their first general meeting at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of the first of the stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly; their second meeting (which is for fixing the annual scheme) upon

upon the second Thursday of July, with power to those Members who shall then be present, to adjourn; and their other two general meetings the first lawful days after the stated meetings of the Commission of the General Assembly, in November and March, within the Assembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the Commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the fore-said Royal Bounty, to pay out the same, as he shall be directed and ordered by the fore-said Committee, and according to their rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of His Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be Ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lie on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time, the person complained of, and the Presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just account of the matter against the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly scheme of Missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee

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their answer to these letters, at farthest, with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot complete it, they shall name a sub-committee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible: And empowered the Committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said Committee, in making up the scheme of Missionaries, &c. do not exceed the sum in the grant.



## XI.

Edinburgh, June 3. 1799. Sess. ult.

**PASTORAL ADMONITION**, addressed by the **GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**, met at Edinburgh, May 23. 1799, to all the **PEOPLE** under their Charge.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,

**Y**OU well know that it has been prophesied in Scripture, that *in the last days perilous times were to come, when many false teachers should arise, scoffers walking after their own lusts, and when men should turn away their ears from the truth.* The prophecy has been brought to our recollection by the subjects, which, in the course of the business of this Assembly, have come under our review. We have contemplated, with devout reverence, events in the conduct of the Divine Government, which appear to us to be a fulfilment of this prophecy; and, from a sense of the dangers to which you are exposed by those events, we feel ourselves bound in duty, and engaged by affection, to issue this fatherly admonition, which your Ministers, in the name and by authority of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, will read to you from their Pulpits.

It is too well known, that, in a neighbouring Country, an evil and pernicious spirit has arisen, which, like a pestilential vapour, has

has spread its malignant influence over several surrounding States. The unhappy Nation of the French, not content with having first slaughtered their Sovereign, and overturned their own Government; not content with endeavouring, by acts of violence, to subvert the established Governments of other Nations, and to introduce amongst them their own principles of rebellion and anarchy; have also impiously attempted to wage open war against the Christian faith. They have shut up their Churches, studied to abolish the memory of the Lord's day, declared the belief of a future state to be an empty dream; and by their emissaries, and their numerous publications, have sought to spread every where abroad their atheistical tenets, and to render every Nation dissatisfied with their own Rulers, and with their own Governments, both ecclesiastical and civil.

Hence has arisen that variety of books and pamphlets, containing the most impious opinions, and propagating the spirit of sedition and rebellion, which have been disseminated with much care amongst all ranks of men in this land. While such doctrines are abroad, and many, through ignorance or inadvertence, are in hazard of being poisoned by them, the solicitude which we entertain for your welfare in time and in eternity, has led us to warn you against the seduction of false Teachers. Now is the time, Dear Brethren, to shew that you are not ashamed of your Blessed SAVIOUR, and of his words; *earnestly to contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the Saints*; and to reject with contempt and indignation that false philosophy, pregnant with lies, which has wrought so much mischief amongst mankind. Listen not to any insinuations from those who seek to pervert you from the sound and good principles you early imbibed; and beware particularly that they instil not into your minds sentiments of disaffection to that wise and mild Government under which you live. Remember, with gratitude, that goodness of the ALMIGHTY, which, when so many other Nations have been distracted with civil commotions, and laid waste by hostile devastations, has preserved you in tranquillity and peace; *every man under his own vine, and his own fig-tree*, enjoying with safety the fruit of his labours, under the protection of laws, which afford equal justice to the poor and to the rich. Instead of being captivated by that empty sound of Liberty, which has proved to be only another name for anarchy or tyranny, let zeal for true Religion ever remain in your minds, united with attachment to our happy Constitution, and with Loyalty to that Gracious Sovereign with whom Providence has blessed us.

It is much to be lamented, that, while we are assaulted by false principles imported to us from abroad, there should of late have arisen among ourselves a set of men, whose proceedings threaten no small disorder to the country. We mean those, who, assuming the name of Millionaries from what they call the Society for Propagating the Gospel at Home, as if they had some special commission from Heaven, are at present going through the land: not confining themselves to particular stations, but acting as universal Itinerant Teachers, and as superintendants of those who are established the Teachers of Religion by the Church: intruding themselves into their parishes without any call;

call: erecting in several places Sunday schools without any countenance from the Presbytery of the bounds, the Minister or Heritors of the Parish: committing in those Schools the religious instruction of youth to ignorant persons altogether unfit for such an important charge, who presume not only to catechise, but also to expound the Scriptures; or to persons notoriously disaffected to the Civil Constitution of the country: and connecting those schools with certain secret meetings, in which, as we are informed, every person is bound not to spread abroad any thing that is said or done in the meeting, to the prejudice of any of the members; into which no person is admitted without the consent of the whole of the members; and which keep a correspondence with other societies in the neighbourhood. You see the men, who by themselves, or their associates, conduct those Sunday schools and secret meetings, bringing together assemblies of people in the fields, or in places not intended for public worship; where, pouring forth their loose harangues, they frequently take the liberty of censuring the doctrine, or the character of the Minister of the parish; studying to alienate the affections of the people from their own Pastors; and engaging them to join this new Sect, as if they alone were possessed of some secret and novel method of bringing men to heaven.

Hitherto, Brethren, you have regarded a regular standing Ministry as a divine institution. You have been taught, that the LORD JESUS CHRIST himself did not act in a public character, without producing and proving a heavenly commission; that the extraordinary endowments which he conferred upon his Apostles, were their warrant for appearing as the Preachers of his Religion; and that the evident connection between those endowments and the appointment of the first Ministers of the Word, is a direction to Christians in all succeeding ages, to consider the office of Public Teachers as a Divine Ordinance, the exercise of which requires talents corresponding to the importance and difficulty of the charge. You know that the Church of Scotland, in conformity to these principles, prescribes a long course of education to those who are trained for the holy Ministry; and, in order to prevent the misapplication of literary studies and talents, requires from all whom she licenses to preach the Gospel, the most solemn engagements, that they will adhere to the Standards which she has published of her Doctrine, Worship, Discipline, and Government. But all this care and solicitude concerning the Ministry of the Word, which we and our fathers learned from Scripture, is now ridiculed as unnecessary. The men who assume the character of Missionaries, declare that Every Man has a right to preach the Gospel; and they are now traversing the whole Country as Evangelists, without any sort of authority, without giving any public pledge for the soundness of their Faith, or the correctness of their Morals, and without those advantages of regular education, and of preparatory knowledge, which, under every form of a Christian Church, ever since the age of miraculous gifts, have been held as indispensably necessary for the useful and successful discharge of a Gospel Ministry.

We wish to judge charitably of all men. We are willing to hope, that amongst these Missionaries, there are several worthy,  
well-

well-meaning people, who have been led astray by men more artful and designing than themselves. But it is impossible not to perceive, that the whole scheme, and the manner in which it is conducted, discover more of a spirit of ambition and vanity, and of a desire to claim a lordly dominion over your faith, than of the spirit of the Gospel, which is a meek, an humble, and a peaceable spirit, and a spirit of order, not of confusion: And whatever may be the intentions of some who have engaged in this scheme, the manifest tendency of their proceedings, is to foster the violence of a blind intemperate zeal; to unsettle the minds of many; to throw their principles loose, by distracting them with novelties, and to make them become like *clouds without water, carried about of winds*.

You may have been led by curiosity, to listen for a little to what these strange and self-authorized Teachers of Religion have to say. But that any of you will give them lasting countenance, or adhere to them as guides, forsaking, upon that account, the Established Church, in whose principles you were baptised, and under whose wings you have been bred up, we are persuaded better things of you, than to believe or suspect. For, is it to be imagined, that any well-disposed and sober-minded Christians, could think of deserting those houses of God, in which their fathers have so often worshipped, and which have so often resounded with their own songs of praise, in order to follow up and down a sect of men, whom you know not whence they be? Is not the Church of Scotland, which has been distinguished by the testimony of many generations, for the purity of its doctrines, and the character of its Ministers, worthy of your most steady and zealous attachment; that Church, in defence of which your forefathers fought and bled, and which has produced so many Confessors and Martyrs in the cause of our common Faith? Much reason there is to suspect, that those who openly profess their enmity to our Ecclesiastical Establishment, are no friends to our Civil Constitution; and that the name of Liberty is abused by them, as it has been by others, into a cover for secret Democracy and Anarchy. Persevere, therefore, in those principles in which you have been bred, and which you have hitherto honourably manifested. Beware, beloved Brethren, of all who would shake your attachment to the Established Church of Scotland. By diligently improving those stated means of instruction which she provides for you, and always consulting the sacred Scriptures as your supreme rule, the path of duty will be clearly pointed out to you. But those, who *heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears*, those who are continually seeking new guides, wander into many unknown paths, which lead them into dangerous snares and errors.

In these giddy times, when the love of innovation so much prevails, and when the spirit of innovation has broken forth in so many forms; listen to the words of truth and soberness. *We speak as to wise men; judge ye what we say*. Recollect the counsels and the practice of your fathers: Recollect your own experience of instruction and edification, under a well educated and regularly ordained Ministry. *Stand, Brethren, in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and*

*walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls: And may God enlighten and fortify your minds by his good Spirit, and, amidst all dangers, enable you to behave yourselves wisely in a perfect way!*

Subscribed, in name of the Assembly, by

WILLIAM MOODIE, D. D. Moderator.



## XII.

### Report concerning Vagrant Teachers and Sunday Schools.

Edinburgh, Monday, June 3. 1799. *Seff. ult.*

*The General Assembly, upon considering that part of an Overture from the Synod of Aberdeen, which respects Vagrant Teachers and Sunday Schools, having directed a Committee of their number, to inquire into the existing Laws, which place Schoolmasters and Teachers of Youth under the inspection and controul of the Established Church; and to report to the Assembly a statement of those Laws, together with their Opinion concerning the most effectual Method of preventing unqualified persons from being employed in the important office of instructing Youth: The Committee accordingly gave in their Report this day; and the same being read and considered, was unanimously approved of, and adopted by the Assembly;—of which Report the tenor follows:*

**Y**OUR Committee do not judge it necessary to enter into a minute detail of the more ancient Laws, with respect to the Power of the Church over all Schools and Teachers of Youth. The General Assembly of this Church, as early as the year 1565, claimed it as their right, That none should be permitted to teach publicly, or privately, but such as were tried by the Superintendants, or Visitors of the Kirk, and found qualified. This claim was confirmed by an act of Parliament, which was passed in the year 1567, in the following words: “For-  
“ asmeikleas,



" asmeikleas, be all laws and constitutionis, it is pro-  
 " vided, That the Zouth be brocht up and instructed in  
 " the fear of God, and gude manneris; and gif it be  
 " utherwise, it is tinsel baith of their bodies and faules,  
 " gif God's Word be not ruted in them: Quheirfore,  
 " our Sovereign Lorde, with advice of my Lorde Re-  
 " gent, and the Three Estates of this present Parlia-  
 " ment, has statute and ordained, That all Schules to  
 " Burgh and Land, and all Universities and Colledges,  
 " be reformed; and that nane be permitted nor admit-  
 " ted to have charge and cure thereof in time coming,  
 " nor to instruct the Zouth privatelie or openlie, bot  
 " sic as fall be tryed be the superintendentes or visitouris  
 " of the Kirk."

After the abolition of the office of Superintendant, in  
 the General Assembly, held in the month of April 1581,  
 certain articles were remitted by the Synod of Lothian  
 to that General Assembly; the fifth of which is, " That  
 " the Trial and Admission of all Masters of Schools be  
 " *now* committed to the Presbyteries." The act 1565,  
 already noticed, is ratified and confirmed by the act  
 1581; and this act 1581, is again confirmed by the act  
 1592, which is the Great Charter of the Church, and  
 which is confirmed by the act of Security 1707, c. 6.  
 and thereby declared to be an essential and fundamental  
 article in the Treaty of Union, into which it is accord-  
 ingly engrossed; so that the superintending power of the  
 Church, over all Schoolmasters and Teachers of Youth,  
 is clearly established by the most solemn acts of the Le-  
 gislature, and even by the Treaty of Union itself.

It is well known that the Church has been in the con-  
 stant exercise of those powers, by visiting and examin-  
 ing Schools, and taking cognizance of the sufficiency  
 and qualifications of Teachers. See the Acts of Assem-  
 bly 1638, 1642, 1649, 1699.

When Episcopacy was re-established, on the Restora-  
 tion of Charles II. an Act was passed, 1662, c. 4. by  
 which it is, *inter alia*, enacted, " That none be permitted,  
 " hereafter, to preach in public, or in families, within  
 " any diocese, or to teach any public School, or to be  
 " Pedagogues to the Children of persons of quality,  
 " without the licence of the Ordinary of the diocese."

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Soon after the Revolution, the act 1693, c. 22. was passed, which declares: "That all Schoolmasters, and Teachers of Youth in schools, are, and shall be lyable to the tryal, judgment and censure of the Presbyteries of the bounds, for their sufficiency, qualifications and deportment in the said office." This act is declaratory of a right, which constitutionally belongs to the Church; and accordingly, the various Presbyteries of the Church have been in use of exercising that power, not merely with regard to Parochial Schoolmasters, but to Teachers of Youth of all denominations and descriptions. And the General Assembly 1700, appoints all Presbyteries to take special, particular and exact notice of *all* Schoolmasters, Chaplains, Governors and Pedagogues of Youth, within their respective bounds.

By the Act 1707, c. 6. which is declared a fundamental and essential condition of the Union, it is provided, "That no Professors, &c. or others bearing office in *any* University or school within Scotland, be capable or be admitted, or allowed to continue in the exercise of their functions, but such as shall own and acknowledge the Civil Government, and shall subscribe the Confession of Faith, and that they will conform themselves to the Worship in use in this Church; and submit themselves to the Government and Discipline thereof, and never endeavour the prejudice or subversion of the same, and that before the respective Presbyteries of their bounds, by whatsoever Gift, Presentation or Provision they may be thereto provided."

By the Act 19th Geo. II. c. 39. sect. 21. it is enacted, "That it shall not be lawful for any person in Scotland to keep a private School, or to officiate as Master or Teacher in any School, until the situation and description of such School is registered, together with a Certificate of the Teacher being properly qualified according to Law, by taking the Oaths to Government; and any person who acts without such Register and Certificate, shall, for the first offence suffer six months imprisonment; and for any subsequent offence, upon the conviction before the Court of Justiciary or Circuit, shall be transported for life." Severe penalties are also imposed upon any Parent or Guardian, &c. who shall employ any such unqualified Teacher: The same Act also requires, That Chaplains in Families, and Governors

vernors, Tutors and Teachers of Children, shall take the Oaths to Government; and Sheriffs, &c. are required from time to time, to make diligent inquiry concerning any offences that shall be committed against this Act, and to cause the same to be prosecuted, for the first offence, before themselves; and in case of any subsequent offence, to give notice of the same to his Majesty's Advocate, who is required to prosecute the same before the Court of Justiciary, or Circuit Courts.

Schools in the Universities, and in Royal Burghs, are excepted; also Parochial Schools, and those established by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, and by the General Assembly, or Committees thereof.

To this Statement of the Laws, the Committee beg leave to subjoin their opinion:—That the General Assembly shall enjoin all Presbyteries of this Church to be diligent in exercising those powers which the Laws of the Land, and of the Church, have committed to them, with respect to the education of Youth within their bounds, and particularly to call before them all Teachers of Youth, whether in Parochial Schools, or Schools of another description, and to take trial of their sufficiency and qualifications in those branches of education which they profess to teach. And that the Assembly shall recommend to the Procurator of the Church to give his advice and assistance to all Presbyteries of the Church relative to this matter; and authorise him to carry on, at the Public Expence, such processes as may appear to be necessary for enforcing the sentences, or ascertaining the powers, of the Judicatories of the Church relative to Schools; and that the Assembly shall request his Majesty's Advocate and Solicitor-General to concur with the Procurator, in supporting the jurisdiction of the Church. And farther, That the General Assembly shall enjoin all the Presbyteries of this Church, to report to the next Assembly a list of all the Schools within their bounds, specifying what is taught in each School; whether the Schools be held on the LORD's day, or on other days of the week; in what way the Schoolmasters are supported or maintained; whether they act for themselves, or are employed by or under the direction of others; what number of Scholars attend each School at the time of making the Report; and in general, whatever else shall appear to the Presbytery of importance respecting the Schools within their bounds.



# ABRIDGMENT

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the CHURCH of SCOTLAND, held at Edinburgh in the Year 1799, which are not printed at full length.

*Thursday, May 23. 1799. Sess. I.*

**A**FTER Sermon by the Reverend Dr WILLIAM TAYLOR, Minister of the High Church of Glasgow, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders convened in the Assembly-house in the usual manner: And after Prayer by the said Dr William Taylor, the Reverend Dr WILLIAM MOODIE, one of the Ministers of the City, and Professor of Hebrew in the University, of Edinburgh, being unanimously chosen Moderator, he, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The General Assembly being thus constituted, the KING's Commission to the Right Honourable DAVID, Earl of LEVEN and MELVILL, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person, was read, and ordered to be recorded.

See Printed  
Acts, No. I.

The KING's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, read, and ordered to be recorded.

And No. II.

The COMMISSIONER's speech at opening the Assembly, and the MODERATOR's speech in return thereto.

His MAJESTY's Royal Warrant for L. 1000 Sterling, for Reformation of the Highlands, &c. was given in to the Assembly, ordered to be recorded, and thereafter delivered to the Procurator.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

An humble and loyal Address to His Majesty, on the present situation of Public Affairs, unanimously agreed to, and the same Committee appointed to prepare a Draught thereof.

A Committee named for revising the Commissions to the Members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof, naming Ministers to Preach before his Grace the Commissioner, and receiving Lists of Probationers in the several Presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

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## ABRIDGMENT, 1799.

A Committee for Overtures named.

A Committee for Bills, References and Appeals named.

Adjournment.

*Friday, May 11. 1799. Sess. 2.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

A Diet spent in Prayer.

Act VII. of the Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of the business of the Assembly, read, and the observation thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to Preach before his Grace the Commissioner.

The Committee for revising Commissions appointed to meet.

The Committees for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

*Saturday, May 25. 1799. Sess. 3.*

*Sederunt.*

A message to the Assembly from the Lord High Commissioner, was delivered by the Moderator; mentioning his Grace's indisposition, and regretting that he could not appear this day in the Assembly.

New Commissions produced.

Report of the Committee for Overtures given in and read.

See Printed  
Acts, No. III.

The draught of the Answer to the King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly being brought in and approved, the Moderator and Clerk were appointed to wait on the Lord Commissioner, and to request his Grace, in name of the Assembly, to transmit the said Answer to his Majesty.

No. IV. The draught of an Address to his Majesty on the present situation of Public Affairs, was brought in, and approved; and the Moderator and Clerk were appointed to request his Grace the Lord Commissioner, in name of the Assembly, to transmit said Address to his Majesty, along with the Answer to his Majesty's Letter.

The Roll of Causes transmitted by the Committee of Bills, was called for, produced and read.

Causes fixed for Monday.

The Assembly agreed to consider on Wednesday the Complaint and Appeal of some Members of the Presbytery of Stirling against a Sentence of the said Presbytery, accepting of the resignation of Mr William Innes, Minister of the Second Charge of Stirling; and in the mean time ordained, that the said Mr William Innes be summoned to appear before the Assembly upon Wednesday next at 11 o'clock forenoon, in the New Church Ayle, in order to answer for his conduct, in giving up his Ministerial charge at Stirling; and appointed their Clerk to issue out an order to one of their officers for this purpose, who shall deliver the summons to the said Mr William Innes personally, or at his dwelling-house, and shall return a written execution thereon.

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## ABRIDGMENT, 1799.

A Committee named to revise the Actings and Proceedings of the Commission of last General Assembly. And,

A Committee named to revise the Actings and Proceedings of the Committee appointed by last Assembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

A Committee named to audite the Accounts of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, and other public accounts, consider the state of the Church's public money, and prepare Overtures about the same.

The Committee for Overtures was appointed to meet this evening, and empowered to receive from the several Members any instructions given to them by the respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures thereon to the Assembly; and to receive and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and superstition, and prepare Overtures for preventing and suppressing thereof.

The Committee for Bills was appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

*Monday, May 27. 1799. Sess. 4.*

*Sederunt.*

The Moderator announced from the chair, that the Lord High Commissioner, though greatly better, was not yet sufficiently recovered to appear this day in the Assembly.

New Commissions produced.

Report of the Committee for Overtures given in and read.

It was objected to the Commission from the Burgh of Renfrew, That it wants the attestations of both the Kirk-session, and Presbytery. The Assembly approved of the Report of the Committee, and sustained the objection.

The several Overtures read, and ordered to lie on the table.

The Report of the Committee for Bills given in and read.

Causes fixed for different diets.

Synod Books called for.

A Complaint and Appeal by Mr Daniel Rose, Minister of Dingwall, against Mr James Dallas, Minister of Contin, heard:

A motion was made and seconded, That the Assembly affirm that part of the Sentence of the Synod of Ross, which reverses the judgment of the Presbytery of Dingwall inflicting a Rebuke upon Mr Dallas: Reverse that part of the said Sentence of the Synod, which reverses the part of the judgment of the Presbytery, appointing him to be ready to report his exact observance of the injunctions laid on him to the next Meeting of the Presbytery: Approve of the conduct of the Presbytery of Dingwall in the instructions which they gave upon the 5th of December last to the kirk-session of Contin, with respect to judicially interrogating Thomas Stewart and John Maciver, inhabitants of the parish of Contin, whether they had given tokens in an irregular manner to Donald Munro, John Reid,

ABRIDGMENT, 1799<sup>d</sup>

Reid, Hector Mackenzie, and Isobel Mackay, inhabitants of the Parish of Dingwall: Remit to the Presbytery of Dingwall to proceed in this matter as they judge for edification: And further, That the Assembly appoint their Clerk to transmit an extract of this Sentence to the Moderator of the Synod of Ross, with an injunction to insert the same into the record of the Synod. And another motion was made and seconded, That the Assembly affirm the Sentence of the Synod of Ross, in so far as relates to the censure of rebuking Mr Dallas, and remit the cause to the Kirk-session of Contin to proceed in the investigation of the conduct of Thomas Stewart and John Maciver, according to the rules of the Church. The Assembly agreed to this state of the vote *first* or *second* motion: And the Roll being called and votes marked, it carried *first* motion. The Assembly therefore adopted the first motion as their judgment.

The consideration of the Chapel of Ease at New Pitligo delayed till to-morrow, after the Overtures.

The Committees for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

*Tuesday, May 28. 1799. Sess. 5.*

*Sederunt.*

The Moderator from the chair informed the Assembly, That the Lord High Commissioner continues to recover from his indisposition, and hopes soon to appear in person in the Assembly.

A New Commission produced.

Report of the Committee for Overtures given in, and read.

Report of the Committee for Bills given in, and read.

Diets fixed for hearing causes.

The Assembly proceeded to consider the Overtures relating to unqualified Ministers and Preachers; and after reasoning at some length upon the subject of these Overtures, a Declaratory Act was adopted; and the Assembly ordained their Clerk to transmit a copy of the Act, separately printed, to the Moderators of all the Presbyteries of this Church, with an injunction to cause the same to be engrossed into the Records of their respective Presbyteries.

The Assembly having considered a Petition to the Presbytery of Deer for Sir William Forbes of Pitligo, Baronet, craving to have a Chapel of Ease erected at New Pitligo, in the Parish of Tyrie; and being assured from the Report of the said Presbytery thereupon, that the erection of the said Chapel was agreeable to all concerned, unanimously agreed to erect the said Chapel of Ease, under certain regulations.

Adjournment.

*Wednesday, May 29. 1799. Sess. 6.*

*Sederunt.*

The Moderator informed the Assembly, That the Lord High Commissioner is gradually recovering from his indisposition, though



though not yet able, without danger to his health, to appear in the Assembly.

A New Commission produced.

The Committee on Public Accounts appointed to meet.

The Assembly proceeded to hear a reference by the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, relative to the Resignation of Mr. Greville Ewing, Minister of Lady Glenorchy's Chapel, of his Character as a Minister of this Church: And having deliberated upon the same, and considering that Mr Greville Ewing's Resignation of his Character of a Minister of this Church, has been accepted by the Presbytery of Edinburgh, unanimously find and declare, That Mr Greville Ewing is no longer a Minister in this Church, and that he is incapable of receiving or accepting of a Presentation or Call to any Parish or Chapel of Ease in this Church, without the special allowance of some future General Assembly; and the Assembly prohibit all the Ministers of this Church from employing him to Preach or perform any Ministerial offices for them, or from being employed by him, unless some future Assembly shall see cause to take off this prohibition.

The Assembly, agreeable to the resolution of Saturday last, proceeded to hear the Complaint and Appeal of some Members of the Presbytery of Stirling, against a Sentence of the said Presbytery, accepting of the Resignation of Mr William Innes, as Minister of the Second Charge of Stirling. And the execution of citation against Mr Innes being called for, was produced and read, bearing, That a copy of citation had been left for the said Mr Innes within his dwelling-house, in Stirling, in the hands of servants, to be given to him, as the officer could not apprehend him personally. Parties being heard, after reasoning, a motion was made and seconded, That the Assembly approve of the conduct of Dr Robert Moodie and Mr Robert Knox, in bringing the Sentence of the Presbytery of Stirling, by Complaint, under the review of the General Assembly: Find, That after it had been alleged by the complainers, that such schismatical and divisive practices had been pursued by Mr Innes, as, if they had been established by proof, would have inferred the highest censures of the Church, it was not competent for the Presbytery or Synod to accept, *simpliciter*, of his resignation of the Second Charge of Stirling; and find, That the Presbytery acted contrary to the act 1739, concerning Ministers who have seceded from the Church, and that their conduct was highly reprehensible; but the General Assembly being informed by Mr Robert Balfour, Minister of Glasgow, and Mr John Campbell, Minister of Kippen, members of this Assembly, that from personal and confidential communications, which they repeatedly had with Mr Innes, in which they endeavoured to dissuade him from executing his resolution, they know, that however defective his letter of resignation is, it was, and now is, his intention, by

## ABRIDGMENT, 1799.

that paper, to resign his character as a Minister of this Church: Sustain this information as an explanation of the letter given in by Mr Innes to the Presbytery of Stirling; and do accordingly find, That Mr William Innes is no longer a Minister of this Church, and that he is not capable of receiving or accepting of a Presentation or Call to any Parish or Chapel of Ease in this Church, without the special allowance of some future General Assembly: And the Assembly do hereby prohibit all the Ministers of this Church from employing him to preach, or perform any ministerial offices for them, or from being employed by him, unless some future Assembly shall see cause to take off this prohibition. And after further reasoning, another motion was made and seconded, That the Assembly approve of the conduct of Dr Robert Moodie and Mr Robert Knox, in bringing the Sentence of the Presbytery of Stirling under the review of the General Assembly: Reverse the sentence of the Presbytery of Stirling, of which the Assembly disapproves, as highly irregular and reprehensible, in accepting, *simpliciter*, under the circumstances of the case, of Mr Innes's resignation of his charge as Second Minister of Stirling: Ordain Mr Innes to return to his charge on or before the first of July next; and remit to the Presbytery of Stirling, at some meeting to be held in the said Month of July, at which all the Ministers are ordained to attend; and upon Mr Innes's failure so to do, to proceed according to the rules of the Church; and to report their procedure to the meeting of the Commission of this Assembly in August next. The Assembly agreed to the following state of the vote; *first* or *second* motion; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *second* motion: Therefore the General Assembly adopted the second motion as their judgment, and ordained accordingly. The Cause of the Chapel of Ease at Elgin delayed till to-morrow.

Upon a motion, the Committee of Bills appointed to meet.  
Adjournment.

*Thursday, May 30. 1799. Sess. 7.*

*Sederunt.*

The Lord High Commissioner appeared this day in the Assembly, and in a gracious speech from the throne, expressed his regret for his absence from some preceding meetings of the Assembly.

To which the Moderator, in the Assembly's name, made a suitable return, and congratulated his Grace on his recovery from his late indisposition.

New Commissions produced.

The Report of the Committee of Bills given in and read.

The Public Accounts produced, and ordered to lie on the table.

Diets fixed for considering Overtures.

Reference

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Reference from the Presbytery of Elgin, respecting a Chapel of Ease in the Burgh of Elgin, heard. The Assembly remitted to the Presbytery of Elgin the petition presented to them on the 30th of April 1799, that the Presbytery may proceed therein at their next ordinary meeting, according to the act of Assembly 1798, containing regulations respecting the erection of Chapels of Ease: And the Assembly authorised their Commission, in August next, or any future Commission, to receive any Report which the Presbytery may make, or any Appeal that may be taken in this case, and to determine therein according to the rules of the Church.

An Appeal at the instance of Mr John Nivison, Minister of Penpont, against a Sentence of the Presbytery of Penpont, of 21st May 1799, finding a libel exhibited by the said Presbytery, against him, relevant, heard: The Assembly referred the Case to a special Committee, to report their opinion on Saturday.

The Committee on Public Accounts appointed to meet.  
Adjournment.

*Friday, May 31. 1799. Sess. 8.*

*Sederunt.*

The Report of the Committee on New Applications given in and read.

A petition for Mr Bryce Little, Minister of Covington, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church to give the petitioner their assistance in the process therein mentioned.

A petition for Mr Alexander Frazer, Minister of Torofay, with the opinion of the Procurator, and report of the Committee thereupon, heard. The Assembly approved of said Opinion and Report; and therefore, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, empowering them, at the public expence, to carry on any Process in which the Minister of Torofay may be engaged, relative to the designation of a glebe.

The Overtures from the Synods of Aberdeen, and Angus and Mearns, respecting Vagrant Teachers and Sunday Schools, and respecting Irreligion and Anarchy, heard. The General Assembly having deliberated on the subject of these Overtures; upon a motion made, unanimously resolved, That a Pastoral Admonition be addressed by the General Assembly to the People of Scotland, warning them of the danger of encouraging, or listening to the addresses of those men, who, under the name of Missionary or Itinerant Preachers, from a Society styling themselves the Society for Propagating the Gospel at Home, have, of late, been travelling over all the districts within the bounds of this Church: And that a Committee be appointed to prepare this Admonition; and to report on Monday. That the same Committee be appointed to inquire into the existing laws which place schoolmasters and teachers of youth under the inspection and controul of the Established Church, to report to the Assembly on Monday a statement

statement of those laws, together with their opinion concerning the most effectual method of preventing unqualified persons from being employed in the important office of instructing youth.

The Petition of the Parochial Schoolmasters read, and referred to the above Committee.

The Report of the Trustees of the Fund established by Act of Parliament, for a provision to Ministers widows, &c. containing an account of their proceedings since last General Assembly, and a state of the Fund under their management, given in, and ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow : And upon a motion, the thanks of the house were given from the chair to Sir Henry Moncrieff-Wellwood, for his great tenderness, fidelity, attention and prudence, in the management of the Fund.

The cause of Mr Henderson of Drysdale to be heard to-morrow, if there is time.

The Overtures from the Synods of Fife, and of Angus and Mearns, respecting the Widows Fund ; and a Petition for the Presbytery of Garioch, relative to the same subject, read. The Assembly agreed to hear Sir Henry Moncrieff, Collector of the Widows Fund, upon the Overtures and Petition : And then, after reasoning, the Assembly did unanimously dismiss the same.

A Reference by the Presbytery of Dundee relative to Elders subscribing the Confession of Faith ; and a Representation by the Kirk-session of Dundee, in vindication of their conduct, heard : The General Assembly find, That all the Elders of this Church are required, by the laws of the Church, to subscribe the Confession of Faith approved by the General Assembly of this Church, ratified by various Acts of Parliament, and by the Treaty of Union ; that every person, who, after being ordained an Elder, refuses, when judicially called to subscribe the Confession of Faith, in presence of the proper court, is disqualified, by that refusal, from taking any part in the government of this Church ; that the Minister of Dundee, who was appointed by the Kirk-session of Dundee to perform, on the 9th of September last, the office of ordaining the Elders, for whom an edict had been served, acted most unwarrantably and unconstitutionally, in presuming to put to these persons, before their Ordination, questions different from those which are implied in the formula 1694, and by no means adequate to the spirit of that formula : Ordain the Presbytery of Dundee, at their next Ordinary Meeting, to summon this Minister to answer for his conduct respecting the election and ordination of those Elders ; to report the result of their investigation to the next General Assembly ; and to summon the said Minister to appear at the bar of next Assembly : Find, that the Kirk-session of Dundee acted unwarrantably and unconstitutionally in admitting several of the persons ordained to the office

## ABRIDGMENT, 1799.

office of Eldership on the 9th of September, to subscribe the Confession of Faith, with a reservation, and in declaring, by their minute inserted in the subscription-book, on the 8th of May, that the subscriptions, with the reservation, were admitted with the unanimous consent of the Kirk-session, and that they did not think they had done any thing unconstitutional: Ordain the Presbytery, at their next ordinary meeting, to summon Mr David Davidson, Moderator of the Kirk-session, who subscribed that minute in their name, to answer for his conduct in so doing; to report the result of their investigation to the next General Assembly; to keep the said subscription-book in safe preservation, and to send it up to next Assembly, along with their Report; and to summon Mr Davidson to appear at the bar of next Assembly: Approve of the conduct of the Presbytery of Dundee, in referring this important matter to the General Assembly: Remit to the Presbytery, at their next ordinary meeting, to summon all the Elders ordained on the 9th of September, who have not already subscribed the Confession of Faith, *simpliciter*, to appear before them at their next meeting; leave it to the Presbytery to take such steps as to them may appear proper, for preserving that regard to the Standards of the Church, and that complete subordination of inferior Judicatories to their superiors, which are essential to the character of Presbyterian Government: And the General Assembly specially instruct the said Presbytery to inquire of the persons summoned, as above mentioned, whether they are willing to subscribe the Confession of Faith, *simpliciter*, in presence of the Presbytery, to judge from their answers, and from the temper of mind, which they discover, whether they should be admitted so to subscribe; and ordain the Presbytery to issue their orders to the Kirk-session (which the Kirk-session are ordained peremptorily to obey) to strike off from their roll every one of the above named persons, who does not produce to them a certificate from the Presbytery-clerk that he has subscribed accordingly.

Agreed to take up the case of the Chapel of Ease at Anderston first to-morrow.

The Committee for Overtures appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Saturday, June 1. 1799. Sess. 9.

*Sederunt.*

Upon Report of the Committee appointed to class Returns to Overtures, the Assembly ordered these Overtures to be re-transmitted, viz. Overture respecting the attendance of Students on the Divinity Hall; Overture respecting the Course of University Education, &c. and Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers.

See Printed  
Acts, No. VI.  
No. VII.  
No. VIII.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonerating and discharging

ABRIDGMENT, 1799.

giving him and his Cautioners of the Sum of L. 428 : 2 : 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  Sterling, disbursed by him, and appointing, that he give credit in his next account for the sum of L. 117 : 15 : 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  Sterling, being the balance due by him.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Murray, Agent for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him of the sum of L. 94 : 19 : 4 Sterling, disbursed by him ; and appointing that he take credit in his next account for the sum of L. 1, 4 s. 4 d. being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the Account of Mr James Dickson, printer for the Church, and ordering payment of the sum of L. 10, 5 s. 4 d. Sterling, being the amount thereof.

Act approving of the account of Stationary Articles, furnished to the Clerks by Mr Elphinston Balfour, and ordering payment of the sum of L. 16 : 2 : 7, being the amount thereof.

A petition for the Presbytery of Garioch; read. The Assembly remitted the Process therein mentioned to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to be carried on at the public Expence. The Report of the Visitors of the Commission Record called for ; the Commissioners conduct approved of ; thanks given to the Moderator of the Commission, and their book ordered to be attested.

See Printed  
Acts, No. IX.

The Report of the Committee for naming Members of the Commission of this Assembly, and preparing instructions to them, given in, and approved. The Assembly added thereto Dr James Finlayson, one of the Ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator ; and also from the Burgh of Renfrew, Mr John Connell, Advocate, whose commission had been rejected by this Assembly, on account of informality.

The Report of the Visitors of the Royal Bounty Record given in, and read. The conduct of the Managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

No. X. A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a commission and instructions to them.

Those appointed to revise the Synod book of Lothian and Tweeddale, gave in some Remarks, which the Assembly ordained to be transmitted to the clerk of Synod, to be laid before their next meeting ; and, in the mean time, ordered their book to be attested.

The Synod book of Glenelg also ordered to be attested.

The Report of the Trustees of the Fund established by Act of Parliament, for a Provision to Ministers Widows, &c. again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register kept for that purpose.

The Committee on the Enzie Fund renewed, with the former powers.

A Report by the Presbytery of Glasgow, respecting a Chapel of Ease at Anderston, heard : The General Assembly, in regard the said Report is not strictly conformable to the act

1798,

## ABRIDGMENT, 1799.

1798, respecting the Erection of Chapels of Ease ; remitted this cause to the said Presbytery, in order to have the fact ascertained, whether the Petitioners might be accommodated in the new Parish Church, now building within the Barony Parish ; and upon its being ascertained to the satisfaction of the Presbytery, that they cannot be so accommodated, the Presbytery are authorised to grant such a constitution as the Assembly shall agree upon on Monday next, to which day the farther consideration of this matter was delayed.

The Report of the Committee on the cause of Penpont, delayed till Monday.

On a motion, the Committee of Bills appointed to meet.  
Adjournment.

*Monday, June 3. 1799. Sess. ult.*

*Sederunt.*

Report of the Committee of Bills called for, given in, and read. A Petition for Mr John Scott, Minister of Avendale, read. The Assembly unanimously remit to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to carry on the Process therein mentioned at the Public Expence.

Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster, Baronet, appeared in his place, and presented at the table, for the use of the Assembly, a complete set of the printed Statistical Account of the several Parishes of Scotland, handsomely bound in twenty-one volumes octavo, which work had been composed at his own request, and under his inspection, chiefly by the several Ministers of this Church. Upon a motion made, the Moderator, in the Assembly's name, returned to Sir John Sinclair the Assembly's warmest thanks, for the many instances of his polite attention to the Ministers of this Church ; for his zeal in setting on foot, and his unwearied perseverance in bringing to an accomplishment, this great work of the Statistical Account of Scotland : And the Assembly gratefully accepted of the Honourable Baronet's handsome Donation, of a complete Set of the said most useful and meritorious work. And upon another motion made, it was unanimously agreed, That the Book should be deposited with the Records and Papers of this Church, under the care of the Clerks of Assembly. And the General Assembly, sensible of the importance and utility of this Work, and being of opinion, that a copy of the whole Book should be purchased by every Parish within the Kingdom, renewed the recommendation of last Assembly to the Members of this Assembly, and to all the Ministers of this Church, to consult their different Parishes with regard to the most prudent and effectual means of obtaining this object.

The Report of the Committee on the Cause against Mr Nivison, Minister of Penpont, called for, given in, and read, and unanimously approved of : Therefore, the Assembly agreeable thereto, found, That the first article of the Libel is not relevant :

vant: Found, That the sixth article of the Libel is relevant: And with respect to the second, third, fourth, and fifth articles of the Libel, found, That they are not relevant, in respect that they do not directly charge the Pannel with being Guilty of the Crime of Fornication, founded upon in the major proposition of the Libel, but only state facts and circumstances, from which it may be presumed or inferred, that the Pannel was Guilty of said Crime, at the time and place libelled; and, therefore, remitted to the Presbytery, with power to amend their Libel as to these articles, if they shall see cause, and to proceed according to the rules of the Church: And found, That, as the major proposition of the Libel founds upon certain crimes, which when committed by a Minister or Preacher of the Gospel, subject such Minister or Preacher to Deposition, the Libellers cannot charge the Pannel with any crime or offence, said to have been committed prior to his license as a Probationer of this Church: And farther found, That when any Criminal Act is specially charged, it is necessary to mention the time within which such Criminal Act is said to have been committed, and that such time shall in no case exceed the period of one year.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the Chapel of Ease at Anderston, and unanimously adopted certain regulations for the said Chapel, on the condition mentioned in the Assembly's Minute on this subject on Saturday last: And in case of any Reference, Complaint or Appeal upon this subject, the Assembly authorised their Commission in August, or any subsequent Commission, to receive and judge thereon, according to the rules of the Church.

The draught of a Pastoral Admonition was given in by the Committee on the Overtures, respecting Vagrant Teachers and Sunday Schools, which was read, unanimously approved of, and adopted by the Assembly; and upon a motion made, the General Assembly ordained, That this Admonition shall be read by all the Ministers of this Church, and of the Chapels of Ease therewith connected, from their respective Pulpits, upon the first Lord's day after receiving printed copies of the same; and for that purpose, the Assembly direct their Clerks to cause 4000 copies thereof to be forthwith printed, and that two copies be transmitted without delay to each Minister of this Church, to each Minister of any Chapel of Ease connected therewith, to the Sheriff-depute of every County, and to the Chief Magistrate of every Royal Burgh: And the Assembly appointed a Committee for superintending the transmission of copies of the said Admonition to all concerned: And the Assembly instruct their Commission in August, or any subsequent Commission, to pay particular attention to the progress of Missionary and Itinerant Preachers, and to take such steps as shall appear necessary to guard the Church from any dangers with which she may be threatened from that Quarter.

The

See Printed  
Acts, No. XI.



The Committee also, in terms of their appointment, gave in their Report respecting Vagrant Teachers and Sunday Schools, which was read, and unanimously approved of; and the Assembly ordained 1500 copies thereof to be printed, and a copy transmitted to the Moderator of every Presbytery of this Church, to be laid before their respective Presbyteries, and also a copy to be sent to every Minister of this Church. See Printed Acts, No. XII.

The said Committee further gave in their Report on the Petition of the Parochial Schoolmasters, which was read, and approved of by the Assembly; and agreeable thereto, the Assembly feel themselves called upon, as the Constitutional Superintendants of all Schoolmasters and Teachers of Youth within the bounds of the Church, to declare, That they consider what is alleged in that Petition as founded in truth; that the Parochial Schoolmasters are, by the nature of their office, entrusted, in a considerable degree, with the important charge of instilling into the minds of the rising Generation, the principles of Religion and Morality; and if they are faithful in the execution of that charge, are well intitled to encouragement: That they are a most useful body of men, whose exertions have contributed very much to the improvement and the success of the People of Scotland: That in many Parishes their appointments are so small as scarcely to equal the gains of a day-labourer: That it would be extremely desirable, if means could be devised for holding forth to men of sound principles and of good capacity, sufficient encouragement to undertake the office of Parochial Schoolmasters, especially in the present times, when many are endeavouring, by various means, to instil into the minds of the rising Generation, principles not only inimical to Religion, to Morality and Virtue, but subversive of all order in Society, and destructive of our happy Constitution in Church and State: That the General Assembly find it without their sphere to give any direction to the Petitioners as to the particular method of accomplishing their object: That they trust the Petitioners will continue by a diligent and unwearied attention to the duties of their office, to recommend themselves to the countenance and protection of the Landed Interest of Scotland.

The Committee on Orkney Grievances renewed, with the instructions given to them by Assembly 1797; and Mr Thomas Gordon, writer to the Signet, was added to the Committee, and appointed Convener thereof.

List of Probationers produced, their names read out, and ordered to be Recorded.

The Assembly referred the Cause of Mr Henderson at Drysdale to the Commission to meet to-morrow morning at ten o'clock, and authorise and give full powers to the Commission to decide finally therein. And

All other Causes not decided by the Assembly are referred to the Commission.

*ABRIDGMENT, 1799.*

A Committee named to revise the Minutes of the Assembly's proceedings at this and all other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of the Assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.

The minutes of this day's Sederunt were read; the minutes of former Sederunts having been read at the diets subsequent thereto.

The Moderator's speech to the Assembly, and to his Grace the Commissioner.

The Lord High Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

See Printed Act appointing next diet of Assembly.  
Acts, No. XIII. The Assembly concluded with Prayer, Singing of Psalms, and pronouncing the Blessing.

THE PRINCIPAL  
A C T S  
OF THE  
General Assembly  
OF THE  
C H U R C H  
OF  
S C O T L A N D,

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, THE 22d DAY OF MAY 1800.

COLLECTED AND EXTRACTED FROM THE RECORDS BY THE CLERK THEREOF.



EDINBURGH:  
PRINTED BY JAMES DICKSON, PRINTER TO THE  
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

M.DCCC.





THE PRINCIPAL  
**A C T S**  
OF THE  
**General Assembly**  
OF THE  
**CHURCH of SCOTLAND,**

Begun at EDINBURGH, the 22d day of MAY, and  
concluded the 2d day of June, 1800.

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I.

The KING's Commission to DAVID Earl  
of LEVEN and MELVILL produced,  
and ordered to be recorded.

*Edinburgh, May 22. 1800.*

**T**HE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National  
CHURCH being convened and constituted,  
there was produced to them, by the Right  
Honourable DAVID EARL of LEVEN and  
MELVILL, the KING's Commission, sealed  
with the seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be  
kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of the Great Seal  
of *Scotland*, making and constituting him his Ma-  
jesty's

jeſty's High Commiſſioner and Representative in this Aſſembly; which Commiſſion was publicly read with all due honour and reſpect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Aſſembly;—the tenor whereof follows:

**G**EORGIUS, Dei gratiâ, Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ, Rex, Fidei Defenſor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præſentes literæ noſtræ pervenerint, ſalutem. Quandoquidem Nos conſiderantes, quod Generalis Eccleſiæ Scotiæ Conventus in vigefimum ſecundum diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; Nosque abundè cupidi, et neceſſarium eſſe judicantes in commodum dictæ eccleſiæ, ut idem Generalis Conventus die ſtatuto debitè obſervetur, atque rebus magni momenti Nos aliò vocantibus, dicto Conventui perſonaliter intereſſe nequimus; Nosque abundè ſatiſfacti de ſufficiencia et fidelitate fideliffimi et prædilectiffimi Noſtri Conſanguinei Davidis Comitæ de Leven et Melvill, quod ad ſummum munus Noſtri ſupremi Commiſſionarii ad dictum Generalem Conventum ritè exercendum et obeundem uſquequaque ſit inſtructus: Noveritis igitur, Nos nominâſſe, conſtituiſſe et ordinâſſe, tenoreque præſentium, nominare, conſtituere, et ordinare, memoratum fideliffimum et prædilectiffimum Noſtrum Conſanguineum Davidem Comitem de Leven et Melvill, ſupremum Noſtrum Commiſſionarium dicto Generali Eccleſiæ Scotiæ Conventui; dando et concedendo illi plenam poteſtatem, commiſſionem, et warrantum, ſacram Noſtram Perſonam et auctoritatem regalem repræſentandi, necnon præſentiam Noſtram ſupplendi, et locum Noſtrum in dicto ſubſequenti Generali Conventu, tanquam Commiſſionario Noſtro ad hunc effectum ſpecialiter conſtituto, tenendi, omniaque alia, ad imperium et munus Commiſſionarii pro Generali Eccleſiæ Conventu peragendi, tam plenè adeoque liberè in quovis reſpectu, quàm quilibet alius in eodem ſummo munere fecerat, ſeu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac ſi Nos ipſi perſonaliter præſentes facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et ſingula, quæ dictus David Comes de Leven et Melvill, in hac Noſtra commiſſione proſequenda legitime fecerit, ſeu fieri ordinaverit, Nos firmiter approbamus et ratificamus. Insuper omnibus et ſingulis dicti Conventus et Eccleſiæ paſtoribus et præſbyteris, cæterisque quibuſcunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britanniæ Scotiam vocatam, ſubditis Noſtris, cujuſcunque gradus ſeu qualitatæ, ut dictum Davidem Comitem de Leven et Melvill, tanquam ſupremum Noſtrum Commiſſionarium, quoad effectum et modum ſuprà mentionatum, reverentur; agnoſcant et audiant, ſtrictè mandamus et præcipimus: Atque hanc Noſtram commiſſionem à dicto vigefimo ſecundo die Maii proximi incipere, et deinceps durante ſubſequenti

*sequente sessione dicti Generalis Conventus in vigore continuare, declaramus, vel usquedum à Nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, presentibus sigillum Nostrium per Unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat., appendi mandavimus. Apud aulam Nostram apud St James's, decimo quinto die mensis Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo, octingentesimo, Regnique Nostri anno quadragesimo.*

*Per signaturam manu S. D. N. Regis superscriptam.*



## II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the  
General Assembly, presented to them  
by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

**R**IGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well. The uniform experience- We have had for so long a course of years, of your attachment to Our Person, of your zeal for the interests of Religion, and of the wisdom and prudence of your proceedings, cannot fail to enhance the satisfaction We have always felt in giving the sanction of Our Royal Authority to the Meetings of your Venerable Body.

The objects of your deliberations are among the most important that can engage the attention of men. The propagation of Christian Knowledge, the maintenance of the Reformed Religion, the discouragement of vice and immorality, and the diffusion of a spirit of charity and benevolence, and of submission to the laws, are ends which must excite in you the most ardent zeal for their attainment.

You will doubtless have felt, that your labours are become doubly important, and, in the same proportion, more painful and difficult, from the opposition of factious men, enemies of our Religion, and of all social order, and legal Government. The success with which you

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have

have hitherto withstood their pernicious designs, affords the surest ground of confidence, that the continuance of your exertions, united with those of Our other good and loyal subjects, will ultimately prove effectual, and that We shall be enabled, with the aid of Divine Providence, to transmit to posterity the unimpaired enjoyment of all the blessings, civil and religious, of our free and happy Constitution.

The distress under which a large portion of your fellow creatures must inevitably labour, during these times of scarcity with which it has pleased Almighty God to visit us, will not escape your attention; and will call upon you individually, in the discharge of your sacred functions, to inculcate with additional ardour the indispensable obligation of relieving, according to the abilities of each, the necessities of the poor.

We have again thought fit to appoint Our Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousin DAVID, Earl of LEVEN and MELVILL, to be our Commissioner, to represent Our Person and Royal Authority in this present Assembly; not doubting, but that the same eminent qualifications which have recommended him to Our repeated choice, will continue to make him acceptable to you, in the execution of the high and important trust committed to his care. And We have charged him, in a most especial manner, to assure you of Our great sense of your steady and firm zeal for Our service, and of Our resolution to preserve and maintain the Church of Scotland as by law established, in the full and free enjoyment of all its rights and privileges.

Trusting in the goodness of Almighty God, that He will bless your pious labours with His especial favour, We commend you to His gracious protection; and so We bid you heartily farewell.—Given at Our Court of St James's, the 6th day of May 1800, in the fortieth year of Our Reign.

By his Majesty's Command,

PORTLAND.

Addressed thus:—*To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved, the Moderator, Ministers and Elders, of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*



## III.

## ADDRESS to his MAJESTY, on his late Providential Escape from Assassination.

*May it please Your Majesty,*

**W**E, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in the General Assembly, beg leave to approach Your Majesty's Throne, with trembling yet joyful hearts, on Your late Providential escape from the hand of a traiterous assassin.

That even treason itself should dare to attempt a life so precious to Your faithful subjects, which has been endeared to them by the exercise of every virtue that can adorn the character of a Patriot King, excites our utmost horror and indignation : While, at the same time, the guardian care of Divine Providence, in preserving the Father of his Country to his grateful and affectionate people, raises in our breast every sentiment of piety and thankfulness to the God of Heaven.

When we convey to Your Majesty our warmest congratulations on this awful event, we cannot fail to observe, how much the most imminent dangers illustrate Your Majesty's Christian fortitude and magnanimity ; endear You still more and more to Your admiring subjects ; and call forth our most fervent prayers, for the prolongation of a life so important, at this juncture, to them and to all the Nations of Europe, till Your Majesty shall have completed the glories of Your Reign, in the accomplishment of all Your exalted plans for the security of Great Britain, and the peace of the world.

That Almighty God may ever keep Your Majesty under His Divine protection ; that He may bless You in Your Person, Family and Government ; that he may bless Your Royal Consort the QUEEN, the PRINCE and PRINCESS of WALES, and all the Royal Family ; and that,  
after

after a long and prosperous reign, You may exchange an earthly for a celestial crown, through the merits of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, are the earnest prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most dutiful,

Most faithful,

And most obedient Subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, }  
May 23. 1800. }

GEORGE BAIRD, *Moderator.*



#### IV.

### The General Assembly's Answer to the KING's most gracious Letter.

*May it please your Majesty,*

**T**HE gracious letter with which Your Majesty has been pleased to honour this meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was received with the utmost respect and gratitude.

The approbation of the spirit and proceedings of former Assemblies, which Your Majesty's benignity has condescended to express with so much paternal affection, is peculiarly

peculiarly grateful to us as a Body, and operates on our feelings as an encouragement to follow, in attachment to Your Majesty's Person, in zeal for the interests of Religion, and in charity towards one another, the example of those enlightened and virtuous men who have gone before us; and to deserve, like them, that sanction of Royal Authority which gives solemnity and effect to the decisions of our National Church.

Impressed with a just sense of the important nature of those objects which claim our consideration, we beg leave to assure Your Majesty, that the propagation of Christian knowledge, the maintenance of the Reformed Religion, the discouragement of vice and immorality, and the diffusion of a spirit of charity and benevolence, and of submission to the laws, are ends which shall continue to excite in our minds the most ardent zeal for their attainment.

In the trying and eventful period in which we live, we have felt that our labours have become doubly important, both to private happiness and the public safety; while we have also had the mortification to discover, that in the same proportion they have been rendered more painful and difficult, by the opposition of factious men, enemies of our Religion, and of all social order and legal Government. We rejoice, that our honest and unremitted exertions, in union with those of Your Majesty's other good and loyal subjects, have hitherto been successful in frustrating their pernicious designs: And in full assurance of the continued favour of Providence to a righteous cause, we look forward with confidence to the termination of this great conflict, when Your Majesty shall be enabled to transmit to posterity the unimpaired enjoyment of all the blessings, civil and religious, of our free and happy constitution.

The distress under which a large portion of our fellow-creatures has inevitably laboured, during these times of scarcity with which it has pleased Almighty God to visit us, has repeatedly claimed our serious attention: And amidst the hardships to which our people must still submit, it gives us the most sincere satisfaction to assure Your Majesty, that in no period known to us have the good sense, the patriotism, and the charity of the country, been more conspicuously displayed. The care employed by the opulent and well-informed, to point out the nature and extent of the visitation, and to provide

the means of alleviating its pressure, has been most meritorious. Of this the poor themselves are not insensible; and the patience and resignation which they have very generally exercised under difficulties seldom known in our land, give us room to hope, that in the honest pursuits of industry, and in dutiful submission to lawful authority, they will quietly wait for the return of a more favourable harvest. Meanwhile, we beg leave to assure Your Majesty, that in the individual discharge of the duties of our function, we shall not fail to inculcate, with additional ardour, the indispensable obligation of relieving, according to the abilities of each, the necessities of the poor.

Your Majesty's Donation of L. 1000 for propagating Christian Knowledge in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, was received with much gratitude, as a fresh instance of Your paternal solicitude for the best interests of Your people, as well as of the confidence which You are pleased to repose in the wisdom and fidelity of this Assembly: And it shall be our endeavour, by a prudent and just application of it, to promote the pious purposes for which it is bestowed.

The appointment of the Earl of Leven and Melvill to represent your Majesty's sacred person and royal authority in this present Assembly, we regard as a pleasing testimony of your affection to our Church. The attachment of this Noble Lord to your Majesty's person, his zeal for the interests of the Church of Scotland, and the virtues of his private life, the eminent qualifications which have recommended him to your Majesty's repeated choice, endear him to us in the execution of the high and important trust committed to his care. The flattering manner in which he has communicated the gracious assurance of the sense which your Majesty is pleased to entertain of our steady and firm zeal for your service, has given us the truest pleasure: And we rely with entire confidence in your Majesty's resolution to preserve and maintain the Church of Scotland, as by law established, in the full and free enjoyment of all its rights and privileges.

That Almighty God may continue to preserve Your sacred life, to guide Your Councils, and prosper Your administration: That he may bless our Most Gracious QUEEN, the PRINCE and PRINCESS of WALES, and all the Royal Family;—and that, after a long life of eminent and exemplary virtue upon earth, You may, through  
the

the merits of JESUS CHRIST our Lord, receive in Heaven the recompense of reward, are the sincere prayers of,

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient,

And most loyal Subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, }  
May 24. 1800. }

GEORGE BAIRD, *Moderator.*



V.

ADDRESS to HIS MAJESTY on the present Situation of Public Affairs.

*Most Gracious Sovereign,*

**W**E, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in the General Assembly, beg leave to approach the Throne with sentiments of the sincerest attachment to Your Person and Government.

Grateful

Grateful to Providence for that happy Constitution under which Britons have so long enjoyed every blessing that can sweeten and adorn social life, we reflect with the deepest regret on those groundless complaints and murmurings which were heard at no distant period in every corner of our land, and which furnished a just subject of alarm to the friends of order and peace. But we rejoice to think, that the exertions of the virtuous, the writings of the wise, and the seasonable interposition of Public Authority, have served, by the blessing of Heaven, to counteract the insidious arts of the disaffected; and it affords us the sincerest satisfaction to be able to assure Your Majesty, that among the great body of the people committed to our care, there prevails an unshaken attachment to our excellent Constitution in Church and State, and a just abhorrence of that system of impiety and anarchy which hath spread misery and desolation through many parts of the earth.

In reviewing the events of a war, on the success of which depends the preservation of all that is dear to a virtuous mind, we admire the wisdom and the steadiness of Your Majesty's Councils, which have kept alive the hopes, and animated the exertions, of the other States of Europe; and while our devout acknowledgments ascend to the Lord of Hosts, who hath supported our righteous cause, with heartfelt pleasure we congratulate Your Majesty on the many important advantages which have been obtained in the course of last year, by the arms of our Country, and our Allies. We recollect, with joy, that during this period, Italy hath been delivered from the tyranny of lawless force; that to the kingdom of Naples its ancient Constitution hath been restored; that in Egypt, a desperate plan hath been frustrated, by which our enemies hoped to spread sedition and tumult through the remotest regions of the earth; and that the defeat of a formidable rival, whom their restless hostility had excited against us, hath placed the British possessions in India in a state of permanent tranquillity; and that, on the coast of Holland, a fleet, equipped for the very purpose of conveying invaders to our shores, hath surrendered to us without a battle, adding a new and a glorious trophy to the many signal victories which the valour of our seamen hath obtained.

In this rapid succession of events which contribute so much to the security of our native country, and the general interests of mankind, we adore the providence of that Almighty Being, to whom "the glory and the vic-  
" tory

“ tory belong;” and we would improve them as a ground of hope, that the cause of religion and good order will triumph over all opposition; and that the efforts of Britain and her Allies will be crowned with such further success as may ensure a happy termination of the important contest in which they are engaged.

That Almighty God may protect YOUR MAJESTY’s person, direct Your Councils, and prosper Your Administration; that he may bless our Gracious QUEEN CHARLOTTE, the PRINCE and PRINCESS of WALES, and all the Royal Family; and that after swaying the sceptre for many years with wisdom and felicity, over a loyal, a virtuous, and a happy people, you may, through JESUS CHRIST our Lord, receive that unfading crown which awaits the righteous, are the earnest prayers of

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty’s most dutiful,

Most faithful,

And most obedient Subjects,

*The Ministers and Elders met in this General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.*

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, }  
May 30. 1800. }

GEORGE BAIRD, *Moderator.*



## VI.

COMMISSION of the General Assembly  
to certain Ministers and Ruling El-  
ders, for discussing affairs referred to  
them.

Edinburgh, May 31. 1800. Sess. 9.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do, nominate, commission and appoint, the Reverend Dr GEORGE BAIRD, Principal of the University of Edinburgh, their Moderator: And,—From the *Presbytery of Aberdeen*, Dr William Laurence Brown, Principal and Professor of Divinity, Marischall College, Dr Gilbert Gerard, Professor of Divinity in King's College, Mr George Morison at Banchory Devenick, Mr John Leslie at Fintray, *Ministers*; William Robertson, Esq; Advocate, Procurator for the Church, William Simpson, Esq; Cashier to the Royal Bank, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Marischall College*, Dr Robert Hamilton, Professor of Philosophy in that University:—From the *Presbytery of Kincardine O'Neal*, Mr Alexander Mearns at Cluny, Mr Andrew Watson at Tarland, Mr John Roger at Kincardine O'Neal, *Ministers*; William Macdonald, Esq; of Renetton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Ellon*, Mr George Pirie at Slains, Mr Duncan Mearns at Tarvis, *Ministers*; Dr Hugh Macleod, Professor of Church History, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Garioch*, Mr James Douglas at Premnay, Mr George Skene Keith at Keithhall and Kinkell, Mr Robert Shepherd at Daviot, *Ministers*; William Gordon, Esq; of Rothney, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Deer*, Mr William Anderson at St Fergus,  
Mr



Mr James Greig at Pitfligo, Dr George Moir at Peterhead, *Ministers*; Mr Alexander Youngson, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Turriff*, Mr Alexander Johnstone at Monquhitter, Mr William Stuart at Turriff, *Ministers*; Mr Archibald Milne, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Fordyce*, Mr Walter Chalmers at Deskford, Mr George Donaldson at Rathven, *Ministers*; Mr George Andrew, writer, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Strathbogie*, Mr Francis Forbes at Grange, Mr John Cruickshank at Glas, *Ministers*; Mr Baron Gordon, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Aberlour*, Mr George Cruickshank at Rothes, Mr William Spence at Inveraven, *Ministers*; The Honourable Arthur Duff of Orton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Abernethy*, Dr John Anderson at Kingusie, Mr John Gordon at Alvie, *Ministers*; Dr Gregory Grant, physician in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Elgin*, Mr Lewis Gordon at Drainie, Mr James Gillan at Speymouth, *Ministers*; The Most Noble the Marquis of Huntly, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Forres*, Mr William Stephen at Rafford, Mr John Macdonell at Forres, *Ministers*; George Cumin, Esq; of Relugas, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Forres*, Robert Gordon, Esq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery* of *Nairn*, Mr Hugh Calder at Croy, Mr John Paterfon at Auldearn, *Ministers*; Alexander Grant, Esq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Inverness*, Mr Alexander Frazer at Kirkhill, Mr William Smith at Petty, *Ministers*; Simon Frazer of Faraline, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Ghanonry*, Mr James Smith at Avoch, Mr Robert Smith at Cromarty, *Ministers*; Mr William Sprott, Solicitor at Law, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*: From the *Burgh* of *Fortrose*, William Inglis, Esq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery* of *Tain*, Mr John Ross at Logie Easter, Mr Thomas Urquhart at Rosekeen, *Ministers*; Charles Ross, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dingwall*, Mr Angus Bethune at Alness, Mr Harry Robertson at Kiltearn, *Ministers*; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Abertarph*, Mr Thomas Ross at Kilmanivaig, Mr James Fowler at Urquhart, *Ministers*; Col Macdonald of Dalness, Esq; *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Sky*, Mr Martin Macpherson at Sleat, Mr Alexander Campbell at Portree, *Ministers*; The Right Honourable Alexander Wentworth, Lord Macdonald, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Uist*, Mr Edmund

mand Macqueen at Barra, Dr John Macleod at Harris, *Ministers*; Hector Macdonald Buchanan, Esq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lochcarron*, Mr John Macrae at Glenshiell, Mr Alexander Downie at Lochalsh, *Ministers*; Bailie Daniel Miller, merchant, Canongate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Tongue*, Mr John Thomson at Durness, Mr James Dingwall at Farr, *Ministers*; Mr William Maclean, merchant, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Caitbness*, Mr William Sutherland at Wick, Mr Patrick Nicolson at Thurso, *Ministers*; Sir John Sinclair, Baronet, of Ulbster, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Wick*, James Horne, Esq; W. S.:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kirkwall*, Mr James Watson at South Ronaldsay, Mr Hugh Stalker at Kirkwall, *Ministers*; Thomas Gordon, Esq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Cairstone*, Mr John Malcolm at Firth and Stenness, Mr Gavin Hamilton at Hoy and Græmsay, *Ministers*; David Reid, Esq; of his Majesty's Customs, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *North Isles*, Mr John Anderson at Stronfa and Eda, Mr George Barry at Shapintha, *Ministers*; John Grieve, Esq; Commissioner of Excise, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Zetland*, Mr William Jack at North Mavin, Mr Thomas Macfarlane at Brassay, *Ministers*; Professor Andrew Dalzel, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Edinburgh*, Dr John Erskine, Edinburgh, Dr David Johnstone, North Leith, Dr William Moodie, Edinburgh, Mr William Cameron at Kirknewton, Dr James Finlayson, Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Macknight, South Leith, *Ministers*; Charles Hope, Esq; Advocate, Andrew Wauchope, Esq; of Niddry Marshall, David Willison, Esq; one of the present Bailies of Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City* of *Edinburgh*, The Right Honourable Sir James Stirling, Baronet, Lord Provost of the City, Mr Thomas Kennedy, Convener of the Trades:—From the *Presbytery* of *Linlithgow*, Mr John Henderson at Queensferry, Dr Hugh Meiklejohn at Abercorn, Mr John Muckerlay at West-Calder, Mr Robert Rennie at Borrowstounness, *Ministers*; The Right Honourable Lord Torphichen, Mr John Meek, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Queensferry*, Mr Alexander Macnab:—From the *Presbytery* of *Biggar*, Mr Thomas Gray at Broughton, Mr William Strachan at Culter, Mr James Somerville at Symington, *Ministers*; John Brown, Esq; of Cultermains, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Peebles*, Mr David Anderson at Kirkurd, Mr Alexander Ker at Stobo, *Ministers*; James Montgomery,

Montgomery, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Peebles*, Thomas Cranstoun, Esq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dalkeith*, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Mr Thomas Coulstoun, assistant at Pennycuik, Mr Henry Home Grieve at Crichton, *Ministers*; The Right Honourable the Lord Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Haddington*, Mr David Pyper at Pencaitland, Mr George Hamilton at Gladsmuir, Mr Andrew Johnston at Saltoun, *Ministers*; William Law, Esq; of Elvingstone, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Haddington*, Robert Roughead, Esq; present Provost of Haddington:—From the *Burgh* of *North Berwick*, Sir James Suttie of Balgone, Baronet:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunbar*, Mr James Williamson at Whitekirk, Mr Alexander Graham at Spott, *Ministers*; The Right Honourable the Earl of Hadinton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Dunbar*, The Honourable Henry Erskine, Advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Dunfermline*, Mr George Cunningham at Dunfermline, Mr John Stewart at Greenlaw, *Ministers*; Mathew Sandilands, Esq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Ghirnside*, Mr Abraham Home at Ayton, Mr George Tod at Eyemouth, *Ministers*; George Buchan, Esq; of Kello, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Kelso*, Mr Andrew Bell at Roxburgh, Mr William Blackie at Yetholm, *Ministers*; Mr William Robertson, tenant in Friars, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Fedburgh*, Dr Samuel Charters at Wiltoun, Mr Benjamin Dickison at Kirkton, Mr Thomas Campbell at Ancrum, *Ministers*; Major John Rutherford of Mossburnford, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lauder*, Mr Robert Dawson at Stow, Mr James Duncan at Merton, *Ministers*; George Baillie, Esq; of Jerviswood, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Lauder*, The Right Honourable James, Earl of Lauderdale:—From the *Presbytery* of *Selkirk*, Mr John Scade at St Boswell's, Mr Thomas Hardie at Ashkirk, *Ministers*; Mark Pringle, Esq; of Clifton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Selkirk*, Mr Alexander Cunningham, jeweller in Edinburgh;—From the *Presbytery* of *Annan*, Mr James Yorstoun at Hoddam, Mr Henry Duncan at Ruthwell, *Ministers*; Joseph Norris, Esq; of Newfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Annan*, Henry Jardine, Esq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery* of *Langholm*, Mr Thomas Martin at Langholm, Mr James Arkle at Castletown, *Ministers*; James Robertson, Esq; writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Lochmaben*, Mr Robert Little at Applegirth, Mr William Sibbald at

Johnstone, Mr James Crichton at Wamphray, *Ministers*; Mr David Welsh at Braefoot, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Lossbaben*, Mr William Johnstone, solicitor, Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery of Penpont*, Mr John Yorston at Morton, Mr James Keyden at Keir, *Ministers*; Mr James Boe in Closeburn, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Sanquhar*, Mr Archibald Douglas, solicitor, Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery of Dumfries*, Mr James Macmillan at Torthorwald, Mr George Duncan at Lochrutton, Mr John Wightman at Kirkmahoe, *Ministers*; Captain Thomas Crieghton of Auchinskeoch, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Dumfries*, Hugh Corrie, Esq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery of Kirkcudbright*, Dr Robert Muter at Kirkcudbright, Mr James Thomson at Rerrick, Mr William Thorburn at Girthon, *Ministers*; Ephraim Lockhart, Esq; of the Customs at Leith, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Wigton*, Mr James Black at Penningham, Mr Peter Young at Wigton, *Ministers*; Robert Hathorn Stewart, Esq; of Physgill, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Wigton*, John Jeffrey of Alerbeck, Esq; writer in Edinburgh:—From the *Presbytery of Stranraer*, Dr John Mackenzie at Port Patrick, Mr William Rose at Kirkcolm, *Ministers*; Thomas Adair, Esq; of Genoch, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Stranraer*, Thomas Smith, Esq; one of the Principal Clerks to the Bills:—From the *Presbytery of Ayr*, Dr William Macquhae at St Quivox, Mr James Thomson at Girvan, Mr John Ritchie at Torbolton, Mr John Moodie at Riccarton, Dr William Rutherford at Muirkirk, *Ministers*; Thomas Kennedy, Esq; of Dunure, James Ferguson, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh of Ayr*, The Honourable George Ferguson of Hermand, one of the Senators of the College of Justice:—From the *Presbytery of Irvine*, Mr Arthur Oughterson at Kilbride, Mr James Adam at Cumbray, Mr David Ritchie at Kilmarnock, *Ministers*; David Boyle, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Paisley*, Dr Walter Young at Erskine, Mr Robert Boog, Abbey Church, Paisley, Mr John Forrest at Port-Glasgow, Mr Colin Gillies at Paisley, *Ministers*; Robert Barclay, Esq; eldest Magistrate of Paisley, Archibald Campbell, Esq; younger of Clathick, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh of Renfrew*, John Connel, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery of Hamilton*, Dr James Meek at Cambuslang, Dr Michael Macculloch at Bothwell, Mr James Hamilton at Shotts, *Ministers*; Professor George Jardine, Glasgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Lanark*, Dr James Ferguson at Pettrinain,

nain, Mr James Macconochie at Crawford, *Ministers*; John Fullarton, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Lanark*, James Miller, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery of Glasgow*, Dr William Lockhart at Glasgow, Mr James Jack at Kirkintilloch, Mr James Lapslie at Campsie, Mr David Dow at Cathcart, *Ministers*; James Hopkirk, Esq; of Dalbeath, Mr David Alison, one of the masters of the grammar school Glasgow, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City of Glasgow*, John Dunlop, Esq; of Rosebank:—From the *University of Glasgow*, Mr James Mylne, Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Glasgow:—From the *Burgh of Rutherglen*, James Davidson, Esq; writer to the Signet:—From the *Presbytery of Dunbarton*, Mr John Allan at Row, Mr Gordon Stewart at Bonhill, Mr George Drummond at Roseneath, *Ministers*; The Right Honourable the Lord President of the Court of Session, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Dunbarton*, Archibald Campbell, Esq; younger of Succoth:—From the *Presbytery of Dunoon*, Mr Archibald Maclea at Rothsay, Mr Dougald Macdougall at Lochgoilhead, *Ministers*; John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Rothsay*, The Honourable William Macleod Bannatyne, one of the Senators of the College of Justice:—From the *Presbytery of Kintyre*, Dr George Robertson at Campbeltown, Mr Donald Macdonald at Kilbean, Mr Duncan Smith at Kilmorie, in Arran, *Ministers*; Robert Davidson, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Campbeltown*, William Campbell of Fairfield, Esq;:—From the *Presbytery of Inveraray*, Mr Dugald Campbell at Kilmichael Glassary, Mr Francis Stewart at Craignish, *Ministers*; John Macneil, Esq; of Oakfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh of Inveraray*, Humphry Trafurd Campbell, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery of Lorn*, Dr Joseph Macintyre at Glenorchy, Mr George Campbell at Ardchattan, *Ministers*; John Campbell of Lochend, Esq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Mull*, Mr Alexander Campbell at Ardnamurchan, Mr Archibald Maccoll at Tirry, *Ministers*; Ranald Macdonald, Esq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery of Dunkeld*, Mr John Brodie at Kinloch, Mr William Chalmers at Auchtergaven, Mr James Patrick Bannerman at Cargill, Mr Hugh Macdougall at Killin, *Ministers*; John Hagart, Esq; Advocate, John Macritchie, Esq; writer, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Presbytery of Perth*, Mr Antony Dow at Kilspong, Mr David Dow at Errol, Mr Thomas Taylor at Tibbermuir, Mr John Rogers, assistant at Gollace, *Ministers*; Bailie James Dickson,

son, bookseller, Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Beatson, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Presbytery of Stirling*, Mr John Russell at Stirling, Mr James Robertson at Gargunnock, *Ministers* ; William Murray, Esq; of Touchadam, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Stirling*, Convener John Hutton :—From the *Presbytery of Auchterarder*, Mr John Baird at Dunning, Mr Ralph Taylor at Monzie, Mr William Graham at Foffaway, *Ministers* ; Patrick Murray, Esq; younger of Auchtertyre, Advocate, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Dunblane*, Dr Patrick Graham at Aberfoyle, Mr David Simson at Tulliallan, *Ministers* ; William Campbell, Esq; writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Dunfermline*, Mr Archibald Smith at Kinross, Mr Allan Maclean at Dunfermline, Mr James Hutton at Beath, *Ministers* ; Lieutenant-General Sir Ralph Abercromby younger of Tullibodie, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Inverkeithing*, John Clerk, Esq; younger of Eldin, Advocate :—From the *Presbytery of Kirkcaldy*, Mr David Swan at Scoonie, Dr John Thomson at Markinch, Mr Thomas Scott at Ballingry, *Ministers* ; Colonel Roger Ayton of Inchdairny, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Cupar*, Dr Michael Greenlaw at Criegh, Mr Robert Bogie at Logie, Mr John Martin at Strathmiglo, Mr James Keyden at Dunbog, *Ministers* ; Dr John Govan, physician in Cupar, George Greenlaw of Hilton, Esq; *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Burgh of Cupar*, Mr Walter Cook, writer, Edinburgh :—From the *Presbytery of St Andrew's*, Dr Robert Arnot, Professor of Divinity, St Mary's College, Mr Thomas Adamson at Cameron, Mr Archibald Gillies at St Monance, Mr James Macdonald at Anstruther Wester, *Ministers* ; Niel Fergusson, Esq; Sheriff-depute of Fife, David Monypenny, Esq; younger of Pitmillie, *Ruling Elders* :—From the *Burgh of St Andrew's*, Joseph Maccormick, Esq; Advocate :—From the *University of St Andrew's*, Dr George Hill, Principal of St Mary's College :—From the *Presbytery of Meikle*, Mr James Ogilvie at Effie and Nevy, Mr Colin Symers at Alyth, Mr James Badenoch at Kingoldrum, *Ministers* ; Sir William Ramsay, Baronet, of Banff, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Presbytery of Forfar*, Mr Thomas Ogilvie at Kirrymuir, Mr James Mitchell at Aberlemno, *Ministers* ; Mr Henry David Hill, Professor of Greek in the United College of St Andrew's, *Ruling Elder* :—From the *Burgh of Forfar*, Robert Grahame, Esq; of Fintry :—From the *Presbytery of Dundee*, Mr Patrick Macvicar at Dundee, Mr Francis Nicoll at Mains and Strathmartin, Mr Alexander Davie

at

at Inchtute, *Ministers*; George Paterson, Esq; of Castle-huntly, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of Dundee, Mr Patrick Smith, one of the present Magistrates of Dundee:—From the *Presbytery* of *Aberbrothock*, Mr William Milligan at Kirkden, Mr Alexander Carnegie at Inverkeillor, *Ministers*; Mr Thomas Milne, merchant, Canongate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Presbytery* of *Brechin*, Mr Alexander Peters at Logie Pert, Mr Andrew Ferguson at Maryton, Mr Robert Coutts, assistant at Brechin, *Ministers*; John Moncrieff, Esq; apothecary, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Brechin*, Adam Gillies, Esq; Advocate:—From the *Presbytery* of *Fordoun*, Mr James Scott at Benholme, Mr James Traill at Ecclesgreig, Mr George Cook at Laurencekirk, *Ministers*; Professor John Stewart, Marischall College, Aberdeen, *Ruling Elder*:—And the General Assembly added thereto, Mr John Inglis, one of the Ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator; TO BE COMMISSIONERS of this General Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftner, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to choose their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully empowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred; or that shall be referred, to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to, the instructions given, or to be given, by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent; as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with re-

lation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year One thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here inserted; and that they inquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books and pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission, to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise, to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorized by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correspondence with the Committee for reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them, as above mentioned: And, in all their actings they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by, the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies



blies One thousand seven hundred and twelve, and One thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money ; which two acts are printed among the acts of Assembly One thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed ; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission ; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Assembly held in the year One thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission ; and such of the members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them, to give attendance on the diets thereof ; and the Presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same. And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlement of vacant churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been some time the practice, but shall allow the same to lie over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th act of the Assembly One thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.



## VII.

COMMISSION to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that End.

*Edinburgh, May 31. 1800. Sess. 9.*

**T**HE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr GEORGE BAIRD, one of the Ministers of the City, and Principal of the University of Edinburgh, their Moderator, all the Ministers who are members of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr George Morison, Mr Andrew Watson, Mr George Pirie, Mr George Skene Keith, Dr George Moir, Mr William Stuart, Mr Walter Chalmers, Mr Francis Forbes, Mr George Cruickshank, Dr John Anderson, Mr Lewis Gordon, Mr William Stephen, Mr Hugh Calder, Mr William Smith, Mr James Smith, Mr John Ross, Mr Angus Bethune, Mr James Fowler, Mr Alexander Campbell, Dr John Macleod, Mr Alexander Downie, Mr John Thomson, Mr William Sutherland, Mr James Watson, Mr John Malcolm, Mr John Anderson, Mr William Jack, Mr John Henderson, Dr Hugh Meiklejohn, Mr Thomas Gray, Mr David Anderson, Dr Alexander Carlyle, Mr David Pyper, Mr James Williamson, Mr George Cunningham, Mr Abraham Home, Mr Andrew Bell, Mr Thomas Hardie, Mr Henry Duncan, Mr Thomas Martin, Mr James Crichton, Mr John Yorlston, Mr John Wightman, Dr John Mackenzie, Mr Thomas Ritchie, Mr David Ritchie, Dr Walter Young, Dr James Meek, Mr James Lapslie, Mr John Allan, Mr Dugald Macdougall, Dr George Robertson, Mr Duncan Smith, Mr Dugald

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1800.

Dugald Campbell, Dr Joseph Macintyre, Mr Alexander Campbell, Mr John Brodie, Mr Anthony Dow, Mr James Robertson, Mr John Baird, Dr Patrick Graham, Mr Archibald Smith, Mr James Keyden, Dr Robert Arnot, Dr George Hill, Mr James Ogilvy, Mr James Mitchell, Mr Francis Nicol, Mr William Milligan, Mr Alexander Peters, Mr James Scott, Mr George Cook, Dr Lockhart, Glasgow, *Ministers*; The Procurator, William Macdonald Esq; Dr Hugh Macleod, Mr Alexander Youngson, Mr George Andrew, The Honourable Arthur Duff, Dr Gregory Grant, The Marquis of Huntly, Mr George Cumin, Mr Robert Gordon, Mr Alexander Grant, Simon Fraser, Esq; Mr William Sprott, Mr William Inglis, Charles Ross, Esq; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, Mr Coll Macdonald, Lord Macdonald, Mr Hector Macdonald Buchanan, Bailie Daniel Miller, Mr William Maclean, Sir John Sinclair, Mr James Horne, Mr Thomas Gordon, Commissioner Reid, Commissioner Grieve, Professor Dalzel, Charles Hope, Esq; Bailie Willison, The Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Convener Kennedy, Mr John Meek, James Montgomery, Esq; Mr Thomas Cranston, The Lord Advocate, William Law, Esq; Provost Robert Rothead, Sir James Suttie, The Earl of Hadinton, The Honourable Henry Erskine, The Earl of Lauderdale, Mr Alexander Cunningham, Mr Joseph Norris, Mr Henry Jardine, Mr James Robertson, Mr William Johnston, Mr Archibald Douglas, Mr Hugh Corrie, Mr Thomas Smith, Lord Hermand, David Boyle, Esq; John Dunlop, Esq; Mr James Davidson, The Lord President, John Lamont, Esq; Lord Bannatyne, Robert Davidson, Esq; William Campbell of Fairfield, Esq; Randal Macdonald Esq; Mr John Macritchie, Bailie James Dickson, Mr Alexander Beatson, William Murray, Esq; Patrick Murray, Esq; Mr William Campbell, writer, John Clerk, Esq; Colonel Roger Ayton, Mr George Greenlaw, Mr Walter Cook, David Monypenny, Esq; Joseph Maccormick, Esq; Sir William Ramsay, Baronet, Robert Graham, Esq; Mr Thomas Miln, Mr John Moncrieff, Adam Gillies, Esq; Professor Mylne, Glasgow, *Ruling Elders*; TO BE A COMMITTEE of this Assembly, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty for these ends, according to, and in terms of, his Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon

due information, to be the most proper, according to his Majesty's design, expressed in his warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation; prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of, the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and, in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee to have a particular regard, in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Assemblies; and to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert, in their registers, the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations, of the several Missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said Missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning Missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator  
or

or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the Missionaries, except upon receipts from the Missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, that they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts; and that every Catechist, who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners, or gentlemen of the district, shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to the Cashier, a declaration, that he has received the particular sum specified; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall, in like manner, bear, that the Catechist has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no such declaration of the Catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the Cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the Catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty: That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the Missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned, who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named, as Members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be Ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of Missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be Ministers: and the said Committee are appointed to have their first general meeting at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of the first of the stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly; their second meeting (which is for fixing the annual scheme) upon

upon the second Thursday of July, with power to those Members who shall then be present to adjourn; and their other two general meetings the first lawful days after the stated meetings of the Commission of the General Assembly, in November and March, within the Assembly aile, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the Commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the same, as he shall be directed and ordered by the foresaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of His Majesty's Court of Exchequer and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person, once employed, and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be Ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lie on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time, the person complained of, and the Presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just account of the matter against the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly scheme of Missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their

their answer to these letters, at furthest with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot complete it, they shall name a sub-committee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible: And empowered the Committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said Committee, in making up the scheme of Missionaries, &c., do not exceed the sum in the grant.



## VIII.

[*Re-transmitted.*]

### Overture respecting the Attendance of Students on the Divinity Hall.

*Edinburgh, May 29. 1797. Sess. ult.*

**T**HE Committee on the Overture from the Synod of Aberdeen, respecting the attendance of Students on the Divinity Halls, having maturely deliberated on the said Overture, Report to the Venerable Assembly, That, in their opinion, it ought to be expressed in the following terms, *viz.*, "It is Overtured, that Students in Divinity, who propose to prosecute their studies for six Sessions, should be required to give as much partial attendance, during the currency of those Sessions, in the Divinity Halls, which they respectively attend, as shall, in the whole, amount to six months."

The General Assembly approved of the above report, and ordered the same to be transmitted, as an Overture, for the consideration of Presbyteries.

XX

## IX.

[Re-transmitted.]

Edinburgh, May 25. 1798. Sess. 8.

*Upon the Report of the Committee on the Clause of the Overture from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, respecting the course of University Education, to be observed by Students previous to their entering the Divinity Hall, the General Assembly unanimously agreed to transmit the following Overture on that subject, to the several Presbyteries of this Church, enjoining them to send up their opinions thereon to the next Assembly.*

**Overture respecting the Course of University Education, to be observed by Students, previous to their entering the Divinity Hall.**

**W**HEREAS it has been represented, That Students intended for the Holy Ministry, do sometimes hurry over their course of Philosophy in Two Sessions of the University, it is overtured, that it be recommended to Students, previous to their entering a Divinity Hall, to study Literature and Philosophy at an University, during a course of five complete Sessions, in the following order, viz.,

Session 1<sup>st</sup>, Humanity or Latin, with the Elements of Greek, in the first Humanity and Greek Classes..

Session 2<sup>d</sup>, Latin and Greek, in the higher Humanity and Greek Classes; with the Elements of Mathematics.

Session 3<sup>d</sup>, Logic, with Greek and Mathematics in the higher Classes.

Session 4<sup>th</sup>, } Natural and Moral Philosophy; but not  
Session 5<sup>th</sup>, } both in the same Session; together with  
Latin



Latin again, or Greek, or Mathematics, in one or more of the higher Classes.

But that it shall be expressly enacted, That no Professor of Divinity shall admit any Student into the Divinity Hall, until he produce certificates of his having studied at an University, during three complete Sessions, in the following Classes, viz., Logic, together with Greek in the higher Greek Class; and Natural and Moral Philosophy; it being, in this case, understood, that such Students are well grounded in Latin, and the Elements of Greek, previous to their entering the University.

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## X.

[*Re-transmitted.*]

Edinburgh, May 28. 1798. *Seff. ult.*

*Upon the Report of the Committee for classing returns to Overtures,—The Assembly unanimously agreed to re-transmit the Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers; also the Overture respecting the Attendance of Students on the Divinity Hall; and particularly, enjoin such Presbyteries as have sent no returns, to send up their Opinions to next Assembly; and that Presbyteries shall appoint a day for the consideration of these two Overtures at their first Meeting, after receiving the printed Acts of Assembly; and that they shall also take into their consideration on the same day, the Overture respecting the Course of University Education, to be observed by Students previous to their entering the Divinity Hall, transmitted by this Assembly.*

## New Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers.

Edinburgh, May 25. 1792. *Seff. 8.*

**T**HE General Assembly having taken under their serious consideration, the great danger to which the interests of Religion and of this Church may be exposed

posed, by licensing any to preach the Gospel who are not duly qualified for that important trust, do hereby enact and ordain, That in all time coming the following regulations shall be strictly observed :

I. It is hereby enacted, That no Student shall be entered upon the Roll of any Professor of Divinity, unless he shall produce to the said Professor a certificate from the Minister of the parish in which he has his usual residence ; or in his absence, or during a vacancy in said parish, from some neighbouring Minister, bearing, that his character is suitable to his views ; together with a diploma of Master of Arts, or certificates from the several Professors of Philosophy, under whom he hath studied, from which it may be clearly ascertained that, in some University or Universities, he hath gone through a full course of Philosophy, in some winter-sessions of College preceding that in which the certificates are produced.

II. The General Assembly do likewise hereby ordain, That all Students who have been enrolled by Professors of Divinity, in the manner prescribed by this act, shall continue to prosecute the study of Divinity for the term of six Sessions : Provided always, That if any Student hath given regular attendance in the Divinity Hall during three Sessions, his Course shall be considered as completed in four Sessions ; and that if he hath given regular attendance in the Hall during two Sessions, his Course shall be considered as completed in five Sessions. And the Assembly do further ordain, That in each of these cases, Students shall be enrolled by the Professors during the several Sessions of their respective Courses, and deliver in the Divinity Hall, in the manner herein afterwards provided, an Exegetis in Latin, on some controverted Head in Divinity, a Homily in English, an Exercise and Addition, a Lecture on some large portion of Scripture, and a popular Sermon, together with such other exercises as the Professors shall think proper to prescribe. And the Assembly further enact and declare, That a Student is entitled to apply to the Professor for his certificates, that he may be proposed for trials, and that the preliminary steps may be taken by the Presbytery during the currency of the last Session of his Course, as above described ; with this limitation, that if the said last Session is to be claimed as a Session of regular attendance, he shall, toward the conclusion thereof, obtain

tain a new certificate of his attendance during its currency, and produce the same to the Presbytery or Synod.

III. Professors of Divinity are required to attend, as much as circumstances may permit, to the conduct of such Students as are under their care, and, as far as they find it practicable, to insist that every Student shall deliver his first Discourse some time during his second Session, at the latest, and the remainder of his Discourses at such periods as may enable him to deliver the whole of them before the end of January of the last Session of his Course.

IV. When a Student is proposed to any Presbytery, in order to be taken upon trials, the Presbytery shall be alone, and the motion for that purpose shall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting. In the mean time, the Presbytery shall appoint the Member by whom the Student has been proposed, to lay before the said meeting the certificate or certificates in favour of the Student, that are specified in the third paragraph of the fifth section of this act; to desire him to attend the same; and to inform him, that, previously to the meeting, he ought, as far as circumstances may permit, to wait on such Ministers of the Presbytery as have not formerly had an opportunity of conversing with him in private.

V. When the time appointed for considering the motion is arrived, the Presbytery shall strictly observe the following regulations.

1<sup>st</sup>, The Presbytery shall be alone, while they are employed in discussing the several preliminaries respecting Students who are proposed for trials.

2<sup>d</sup>, They shall require satisfying evidence, that every Student who is proposed for that purpose has completed the twenty-first year of his age.

3<sup>d</sup>, No Student shall be admitted to trials, unless he produces to the Presbytery a certificate or certificates from the Professor or Professors of Divinity, under whose tuition he hath studied, bearing, that he hath prosecuted his studies, and delivered his Discourses, in the manner prescribed by this act; and that his conduct, as far as consists with the knowledge of the said Professor, or Professors, has been in every respect suitable to his views in life. And the General Assembly do likewise hereby enact, That the Presbytery shall record at full

length the said certificate, or certificates, in their minutes : And it is hereby enacted and declared, That the Student having lodged such certificate or certificates, shall be entitled to obtain extracts of the same, if demanded.

*4th*, No Presbytery shall receive any Student upon trials, unless they are satisfied that he is of good report ; sound in his principles ; pious, sober, grave, and prudent, in his behaviour ; of a peaceable disposition ; and well affected to the happy establishment in this kingdom, both in Church and State. And, that the Presbytery may proceed with all due caution, in a matter of such peculiar importance, they shall not agree to the motion in behalf of the Student, unless his residence, during the year proceeding, has been chiefly within their bounds, or he shall produce sufficient testimonials from the Presbytery, in whose bounds his residence has chiefly been, during that term, bearing, that his character is such as is described in the immediately preceding sentence of this paragraph, and recommending him, in these respects, to the Presbytery before whom the proposal is made, as a proper person to be entered upon trials.

*5th*, The Presbytery shall not agree to the motion in favour of the Student, unless they are satisfied that he has made a competent degree of proficiency in those several branches of knowledge which are necessary to enable him to be an useful Preacher of the Gospel. And the General Assembly ordain, that the Presbytery, in order to procure full information in this respect, shall examine the Student strictly, and privately, on his knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, and of Philosophy and Theology.

*6th*, If, after these preliminary steps have been taken, the Presbytery shall be of opinion that the Student is duly qualified in these several particulars, they shall record this opinion in their minutes, and order their clerk to write letters to the several Presbyteries within the bounds of the Provincial Synod, two kalendar months at least before the meeting of the same, informing them of the Presbytery's intention to take the Student upon Public Trials, and bearing, that the certificate, or certificates, in his favour, which are required by this act, have been regularly laid before them. But it is hereby provided, That within the bounds of such Synods as meet only once a-year, a Student may be entitled to have these circular letters written half a-year sooner than would be otherwise competent.

VI. The General Assembly do likewise hereby enact and declare, That at the request of the Student, it shall be competent to any Presbytery to transfer the receiving of the Public Trials, or any parts thereof, certifying to the Presbytery to which the transference is to be made, that the various preliminary steps have been taken according to the directions of this act; and that such parts of the Public and Private Trials as have been already gone through have been received with approbation.

VII. If a Student have studied, either in whole or in part, in Protestant Universities, which are not within the bounds of this Church, he shall, when he is proposed to any Presbytery for trials, be required to produce satisfying testimonials from the Professors of Divinity in said Universities; and the time which these professors shall certify to have been employed by him in studying Divinity under their tuition, shall be computed in the same manner as if he had prosecuted his studies in any of the Universities within the bounds of this Church. But it is hereby provided, that no Student, in such circumstances shall be admitted even to those private trials which are appointed to be taken before the writing of the circular letters, sooner than six calendar months after his arrival in Scotland.

VIII. The General Assembly ordain, That if a Presbytery propose to take a Student upon Public Trials, and have, with that view, written the circular letters as is herein required, public intimation thereof shall be made at some diet of the next meeting of the Provincial Synod, which shall not be the last diet thereof: And the Presbytery clerk is hereby required to transmit to the Synod clerk an extract of the certificate or certificates laid before the Presbytery in favour of the Student, in order that the same may be produced at this diet of the Synod. And it is likewise hereby ordained, That at some subsequent diet of the Synod, particular inquiry shall be made, whether any of the members of the Court has any objection to offer against the Student being entered upon Public Trials: And that the Synod then, taking into consideration the extract produced, and the whole of the case, shall judge of the expediency of allowing the Presbytery to admit the Student on trials: Or, if in any case the Presbytery clerk shall fail to transmit the extracts of the certificates above mentioned, the Student

Student may produce to the Synod, by himself, or by any member of the Court, the extract of the same which by this act he is entitled to obtain.

IX. If the Synod shall allow the Student to be taken upon Public Trials, the Presbytery shall proceed therein with all convenient speed; and the Assembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the Student, and in the order herein mentioned: 1<sup>st</sup>, Catechetic trials on Divinity, Chronology, and Church History; 2<sup>d</sup>, A trial on the Hebrew and Greek languages; 3<sup>d</sup>, An Exegesis in Latin on some controverted Head in Divinity; 4<sup>th</sup>, A Homily in English; 5<sup>th</sup>, An Exercise and Addition; 6<sup>th</sup>, A Lecture on some large portion of Scripture; 7<sup>th</sup>, A popular Sermon; it being understood, that if the Presbytery see cause they may examine the Student upon the subject of these several Discourses.

X. The Student having gone through the several trials, which are mentioned in the immediately preceding section of this act, the Presbytery are ordained to proceed in the following order.

1<sup>st</sup>, They shall, deliberately and seriously, take a conjunct view of the whole trials; and if they shall be of opinion, that the Student is not properly qualified to perform the duties incumbent upon a Preacher of the Gospel, they shall by no means grant him a License in his present circumstances.

2<sup>d</sup>, If, upon this review of the trials, the Presbytery are fully satisfied therewith, they shall record this opinion in their minutes.

3<sup>d</sup>, The Presbytery shall then propose to the Student the questions that are appointed to be put to all who pass Trials by act 10. Assembly 1711, and require him to subscribe the *Formula* which is prescribed by the said act. And the General Assembly strictly prohibit all Presbyteries from licensing any Student to preach the Gospel, who shall not give explicit and satisfying answers to these questions, and subscribe the said *Formula*.

4<sup>th</sup>, The Presbytery shall order the act of Assembly 1759, against Simoniackal practices, to be read to the Student in their presence.

Lastly, The Presbytery shall appoint their Moderator to license the Student to preach the Gospel, and order their Clerk to furnish him with an extract of his license.

XI. For the better observance of this act, the General Assembly ordain, 1<sup>st</sup>, That it shall be printed among their

their other printed acts; 2d, That it shall be printed by itself, in some convenient form; 3d, That a copy of this separate edition shall be transmitted to each Professor of Divinity in the Universities of Scotland; and that the said Professors shall read the same in their respective Halls once at least during every Session; and at such times as they have reason to expect the attendance of the greatest number of Students, for that Session; and, lastly, That a copy of the same edition shall likewise be transmitted to the Clerks of each Synod and Presbytery, within the bounds of this Church, and that the said Clerks shall keep the same along with their minutes, and bring it up to each meeting of their respective Courts, for the use of their Members.



## XI.

### Order and Injunction of the General Assembly, to the Presbyteries of the Church, concerning Teachers and Schoolmasters.

*Edinburgh June 2. 1800. Sess. ult.*

**T**HE General Assembly called for the Report of the Committee on Vagrant Teachers and Sunday Schools; and the same was given in and read. The General Assembly having considered this report of the Committee, who had been directed to class the reports of Presbyteries concerning Schoolmasters, whether of parochial schools, or schools of any other description; and it appearing, that not a fourth part of the Presbyteries of the Church have made any report; the Assembly peremptorily enjoin all the other Presbyteries of the Church, to send up to next General Assembly particular reports of their obedience to the order of last Assembly. The General Assembly trust, that those Presbyteries which have sent up particular reports, will continue the same laudable and vigilant attention to the important object specially committed to their inspection; and that they will not fail to transmit to next Assembly any new

facts which may fall within their observation. The General Assembly recommend to all Presbyteries to take the method which appears to them most expedient, of examining the Teachers on the branch of knowledge which they profess to teach, to require all parochial and established schoolmasters to subscribe the Confession of Faith and Formula, if they have not already done so, and to ask all teachers of youth, without exception, to produce to the Presbytery attestations of their having taken the oaths to Government; and they order a particular report of obedience to this recommendation to be made to next Assembly. And further, the General Assembly enjoin all the Presbyteries of this Church, to transmit, without delay, attested copies of their reports to the Assembly, to the Sheriffs within whose jurisdiction they are situated: And they instruct the clerks to keep the reports sent up to this Assembly, and the report of the Committee on this subject, in safe custody. And the General Assembly appoint their clerks, to cause separate copies of this order to be printed, together with the injunction of last Assembly relative to this matter; and to transmit copies thereof to the Moderator of each Presbytery of the Church, to be laid by him before the Presbytery, at their first ordinary meeting after receiving the same.

*Follows a repetition of the Injunction of the General Assembly 1799.*

The General Assembly enjoin all Presbyteries of this Church to be diligent in exercising those powers which the laws of the land and of the Church have committed to them, with respect to the education of youth within their bounds; and particularly, to call before them all teachers of youth, whether in parochial schools or schools of another description, and to take trial of their sufficiency and qualifications in those branches of education which they profess to teach. And the Assembly recommend to the Procurator of the Church, to give his advice and assistance to all the Presbyteries of the Church, relative to this matter; and authorise him to carry on, at the public expence, such processes as may appear to be necessary for enforcing the sentences, or ascertaining the powers, of the judicatories of the Church relative to schools; and the Assembly request his Majesty's Advocate and Solicitor-General to concur with the Procurator



tor in supporting the jurisdiction of the Church. And further, the General Assembly enjoin all the Presbyteries of the Church to report to the next Assembly a list of all the schools within their bounds, specifying what is taught in each school; whether the schools be held on the Lord's day, or on other days of the week; in what way the schoolmasters are supported or maintained; whether they act for themselves, or are employed by, or under, the direction of others; what number of scholars attend each school at the time of making the report; and, in general, whatever else shall appear to the Presbytery of importance, respecting the schools within their bounds.



## XII.

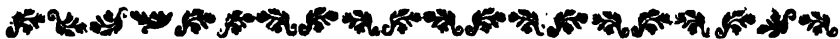
Recommendation by the General Assembly, for promoting a Subscription towards defraying the Expence of the Appeal in the Cause relating to the Schoolmaster of Bothwell; and Order for Printing the Appeal Case prepared by the Procurator.

*Edinburgh, 2d June 1800. Sess. ult.*

THE Committee appointed to take the necessary steps in the cause relating to the Schoolmaster of Bothwell, having reported to the Assembly, That the Appeal from the two last interlocutors of the Court of Session in that cause, has been heard and determined by the House of Peers; and that the interlocutors complained of have been finally reversed: That though the Committee had received L. 118 : 14 : 10 from the voluntary contribution of the Presbyteries, and L. 80 from the funds of the Church, the expence incurred has, notwithstanding, considerably exceeded the funds with which the Committee were intrusted, and that the deficiency amounts to upwards of L. 196. The General Assembly considering, that

that the judgment which has been ultimately pronounced in this cause, is of general importance, as it has effectually established the exclusive jurisdiction of the Church, with regard to the qualifications and the trial of parochial schoolmasters: and considering, at the same time, that the state of the funds of the Church does not allow the Assembly at present to make good the whole of the expence incurred, did and hereby do earnestly recommend it to the several Presbyteries within the bounds of this Church, and especially to those who have not hitherto contributed, to promote a Subscription among their members, in order to assist the funds of the Church, in extinguishing a debt, which the final decision of this cause, so important in its consequences to the whole country, has occasioned: And the General Assembly appoint the Clerks of Assembly to cause this minute to be immediately printed, at the public expence, and to transmit a copy thereof, without delay, to the Moderators of the several Presbyteries, which they hereby enjoin them to lay before the said Presbyteries respectively, at their first ordinary meeting after it shall come to their hands: And further, the General Assembly appoint the said Moderators to remit to Mr William Murray, agent for the Church, whatever sums shall be subscribed within their respective Presbyteries, and, if possible, to do this, on or before the 1st day of October next: And the General Assembly renew the appointment of the Committee, with instructions to attend to the progress of the subscription, and to the application of the sums which shall be received by the agent; and to report the result to next General Assembly.

The General Assembly, considering at the same time, that the Appeal Case prepared by the Procurator in this cause, contains a statement of facts, which it would be extremely useful to render generally known through the Church, they appoint the Clerks to cause such a number of copies thereof to be printed, as the Committee shall think expedient, to circulate them among the several Presbyteries, and to apply to the Cashier of the Church for the sum necessary to defray the expence, which the Assembly hereby authorise him to advance.



### XIII.

## Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

*Edinburgh, 2d June 1800. Sess. ult.*

**T**HE next GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday, the 21st day of May 1801.

*Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by*

**ANDREW DALZEL, Cl. Eccl. Scot.**

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**TABLE**

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# ABRIDGMENT

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the CHURCH of SCOTLAND, held at Edinburgh in the Year 1800, which are not printed at full length.

*Thursday, May 22. 1800. Sess. I.*

**A**FTER Sermon by the Reverend Dr WILLIAM MOODIE, one of the Ministers of the City, and Professor of Hebrew in the University, of Edinburgh, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders convened in the Assembly-house in the usual manner: And after Prayer by the said Dr William Moodie, the Reverend Dr GEORGE BAIRD, Principal of the University of Edinburgh, being unanimously chosen Moderator, he, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

The General Assembly being thus constituted, the KING's Commission to the Right Honourable DAVID, Earl of LEVEN and MELVILL, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person, was read, and ordered to be recorded.

See Printed Acts, No. I.

The KING's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, read, and ordered to be recorded.

And No. II.

The COMMISSIONER's speech at opening the Assembly, and the MODERATOR's speech in return thereto.

His MAJESTY's Royal Warrant for L. 1000 Sterling for Reformation of the Highlands, &c. was given in to the Assembly, ordered to be recorded, and thereafter delivered to the Procurator.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

An humble and loyal Address to his Majesty, on his late Providential Escape from Assassination, unanimously agreed upon; and the same Committee appointed to prepare a Draught thereof.

A Committee named for revising the Commissions to the Members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof, naming Ministers to preach before his Grace the Commissioner, and receiving Lists of Probationers in the several Presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

## ABRIDGMENT, 1800.

A Committee for Overtures named.

A Committee for Bills, References and Appeals named.

Adjournment.

*Friday, May 23. 1800. Sess. 2.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

A Diet spent in Prayer.

See Printed  
Acts, No. III.

The draught of an Address to his Majesty, as unanimously agreed to yesterday, was brought in, and approved; and his Grace the Lord Commissioner, at the Assembly's desire, undertook to transmit the same to his Majesty.

Act VII. of the Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of business, read, and the observation thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to Preach before his Grace the Commissioner.

The Committee for revising Commissions appointed to meet.

The Committees for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

*Saturday, May 24. 1800. Sess. 3.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

Report of the Committee for Overtures given in and read.

No. IV. The draught of the Answer to the King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly being brought in, and approved, his Grace the Lord High Commissioner, at the Assembly's desire, undertook to transmit the same to his Majesty.

A Report by the Trustees of the Widows' Fund respecting the Election of Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood to be sole Collector of the said Fund, was given in to the Assembly by Dr Finlayson, their Preses. The Assembly unanimously approved of the Report, and confirmed the Election and Admission of Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood, Baronet, to the sole Office of Collector or Receiver of the said Fund.

Upon a Motion, the Decision of last Assembly respecting the Ordination of Elders at Dundee, was read. The Report of the Presbytery of Dundee, as ordered by last Assembly, was called for, and given in by the Moderator of the Presbytery, with Extract Minutes of the Kirk-session of Dundee: The whole ordered to lie on the Table till Thursday, and then the said Report, and whole cause, to be taken into consideration.

A Committee appointed to class the reports made by Presbyteries, in consequence of the Order of last Assembly concerning Vagrant Teachers and Sunday Schools, and to report on Friday.

The Committee on the Bothwell Cause appointed to make their Report on the same day.

The Roll of Causes transmitted by the Committee of Bills was called for, produced, and read.

Causes fixed.

*ABRIDGMENT, 1800.*

A Committee named to revise the Actings and Proceedings of the Commission of last General Assembly. And,

A Committee named to revise the Actings and Proceedings of the Committee appointed by last Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

A Committee named to audite the Accounts of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, and other Public Accounts, consider the State of the Church's Public Money, and prepare Overtures about the same.

The Committee for Overtures was appointed to meet this evening, and empowered to receive from the several Members any Instructions given to them by the respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures thereon to the Assembly; and to receive and consider any Accounts that shall be given them of the State of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and Superstition, and prepare Overtures for preventing and suppressing thereof.

The Committee for Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

*Monday, May 26. 1800. Sess. 4.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

The Report of the Committee for Overtures given in, and read.

The Overture respecting the low salaries of Parish-schoolmasters, read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

The Report of the Committee respecting the Overture about catechising Parishes approved of, and the Overture dismissed, in respect that this object is sufficiently provided for by the existing laws of the Church.

The Report of the Committee for bills given in, and read.

The Assembly unanimously approve of the Report of the Committee refusing to transmit a Petition of Mr John Wilde, Advocate, relating to the Moderation of a Call to Dr Finlayson.

Diets fixed for hearing causes.

Parties in the cause relating to the Little Kirk or Chapel of Ease in the town of Elgin, heard. After reasoning, a motion was made and seconded, That the Assembly affirm the judgment of the Presbytery of Elgin, finding that a Chapel of Ease in the town of Elgin is at present unnecessary and inexpedient, and therefore refuse the request of the petition: And another Motion was made, and seconded, That the Assembly reverse the Judgment of the Presbytery, remove the Interdict, and allow the New Chapel to be on the same footing with the Little Kirk. The Assembly agreed to this state of the Vote, Affirm or Reverse. And the Roll being called, and Votes marked, it carried, Affirm. The Assembly, therefore, affirmed the Judgment of the Presbytery of Elgin, finding, that a Chapel of Ease in the Town of Elgin is at present unnecessary

ABRIDGMENT, 1800.

unnecessary and inexpedient, and refuse the request of the Petition.

The Committees for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.  
Adjournment.

*Tuesday, May 27. 1800. Sess. 5.*

*Sederunt.*

New Commissions produced.

Several Members dissented from the Sentence of Assembly respecting the Chapel of Ease at Elgin.

Report of the Committee for Overtures given in, and read.

Report of the Committee for Bills given in, and read.

Hearing of Causes fixed.

Synod Books called for.

An Appeal by Robert Sharp, Preses of the Committee of Managers of the Chapel of Ease of Rothsay, for himself, and the other Members of said Committee, and others, from a sentence of the Presbytery of Denoon, of the 6th current, heard. After reasoning, a motion was made, and seconded, That the Assembly affirm the Sentence of the Presbytery of Denoon, and dismiss the Petition as groundless. And another motion was made, and seconded, That the Assembly reverse the Sentence of the Presbytery of Denoon, complained of; and recommend it to the Reverend Mr Maclea to grant Certificates of Moral Character, where no objection lies against it, to the Members of the Chapel of Ease, for the purpose of obtaining Baptism to their Children from the Minister of that Congregation. The Assembly then agreed to this state of the Vote, Affirm or Reverse; and the Roll being called, and Votes marked, it carried by a great majority, Affirm. The Assembly, therefore, affirmed the Sentence of the Presbytery of Denoon, and dismissed the Petition as groundless.

The cause of Penpont delayed till Saturday.

Adjournment.

*Wednesday, May 28. 1800. Sess. 6.*

*Sederunt.*

Committees appointed to meet.

Upon a Motion, it was unanimously agreed, That an humble and loyal Address should be presented to his Majesty on the present situation of Public Affairs: And the same Committee, which drew up the former Address to his Majesty on his escape from Assassination, appointed to draw up the present Address, and to lay the same before the Assembly on Friday.

An Appeal, by Mr Andrew Bell, Minister of Crail; and Mr James Nairn, Minister of Pittenweem, from a Sentence of the Synod of Fife, of 8th April last, dismissing Complaints against different Judgments of the Presbytery of St Andrew's; and appointing that Presbytery to proceed to the Settlement of Dr Robert Arnot in the Parish of Kingbarns, being partly heard, the



the Assembly agreed to resolve themselves into a Committee of the whole House, to meet immediately after the conclusion of the present Diet, and to proceed in the discussion of this Cause.

Adjournment.

*Thursday, May 29. 1800. Sess. 7.*

*Sederunt.*

The Public Accounts produced, and ordered to lie on the Table.

The Report of the Committee of the whole House, in the Cause of the Settlement of Kingsbarns, was read, and approved of: And agreeably thereto, the Assembly affirmed the Sentences of the Presbytery of St Andrews, and Synod of Fife; and ordained the Presbytery to proceed to the Settlement of Dr Robert Arnot, in the Church and Parish of Kingsbarns, with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church.—Against this Sentence, Mr Russell dissented; and those who adhered, were allowed to enter their Dissents next day.

The Assembly proceeded to consider the Report of the Presbytery of Dundee; and agreed first to call to the Bar Dr Robert Small, whom they found to be the minister who had ordained the Elders on the 9th of September 1798. A member of the Presbytery was heard on the Report, and Dr Small was heard for himself: The Assembly find, That Dr Robert Small having delivered it as his opinion in the Kirk-session of Dundee, about the time when it was proposed to ordain the Elders, who were ordained 9th September 1798, that the Session should not insist on an obligation to subscribe the Confession of Faith and Formula, as a condition of ordaining Elders, because it was a new practice, not required by any law of the Church, and had prevented several of the most respectable persons in the congregation, and the best affected to the Church, from accepting of that office; having been selected to perform the service of ordaining the above-mentioned Elders, by the nomination of the Kirk-session, who, as is stated in one of his answers to the questions of the Presbytery, knew that he would not take any man at unawares, but would communicate to the Kirk-session all the questions he meant to put, and give the persons to be ordained time to think seriously; and having put to the said Elders, before their ordination, in face of the Congregation, questions which were previously communicated by him to the Kirk-session, and which he appears, from another of his answers to the questions of Presbytery, to have presumed might have been answered in the affirmative by persons who were not able, with a safe conscience, to give an assent to the whole of the Confession of Faith; has discovered an ignorance of those laws of the Church by which all Elders received into communion with us in Church-government are obliged to subscribe their approbation of the Confession of Faith; has disparaged, in the opinion of those with  
b whom

whom, by his station, he is most nearly connected, the practice which prevails universally in this Church, of requiring Elders, at the time of their ordination, to declare explicitly, either by word, or by the subscription of the above-mentioned Formula, their assent to all that is therein contained; and has done what had a tendency to deprive the Church of Scotland of that security for the stability of her Doctrine, Worship, Discipline and Government, which, under God, she derives from the avowed conformity of all her Office-bearers to her Standards; enjoin Dr Small to be careful hereafter to testify, by his whole conduct, that respect for the Standards of this Church, and for the fences wisely provided by our Ecclesiastical Constitution, against dangerous innovation, which corresponds both to the declaration stated in his defences, as repeatedly made by him in the Kirk-session of Dundee, that he gloried in the Confession of Faith; and also to the solemn engagements under which he came at the time of his ordination, to concur with the Presbyterian Government and Discipline of this Church, and never to endeavour, directly nor indirectly, the prejudice or subversion thereof; order this sentence to be engrossed in the records of the Presbytery of Dundee, and of the Kirk-session of Dundee.

The consideration of the remainder of the Report from the Presbytery of Dundee delayed till to-morrow.

Committee for Overtures appointed to meet,

Adjournment.

Friday, May 30. 1800. Sess. 8.

*Sederunt.*

Several members adhered to the dissent of yesterday, against the Sentence respecting the settlement at Kingsbarns.

See Printed  
Acts, No. V.

The draught of an Address to his Majesty on the present situation of Public Affairs, was brought in and approved; which Address, his Grace the Lord High Commissioner was pleased, at the Assembly's request, to undertake to transmit to his Majesty.

The Report of the Committee for Overtures given in, and read. Causes fixed for hearing.

The Report of the Committee on the cause of the Schoolmaster of Bothwell given in and read. The Assembly approve of the Report, and remit to the Procurator and Agent for the Church to take the proper steps for carrying the sentence of the House of Lords into effect: And in so far as the Report concerns the account of Expences already incurred, refer the same to the Committee on Public Accounts. And, upon a motion made, the thanks of the House were given from the Chair to the Reverend Dr Macculloch, for his great diligence, perseverance and merit, in promoting the success of this cause. And further, the Assembly appoint the Committee on this cause to meet and consider the best mode of renewing the subscription, and to report to the Assembly on Monday. And the Moderator,

rator, at the Assembly's desire, returned their grateful thanks to the Procurator, for his great attention and ability displayed in the service of the Church, and particularly in this important cause.

The Report of the Trustees of the Fund established by act of Parliament for a Provision to Ministers' Widows, &c. containing an account of their proceedings since last General Assembly, and a state of the Fund under their Management, given in, and ordered to lie on the Table till to-morrow : And, upon a Motion, the thanks of the House were given from the Chair to Sir Henry Moncreiff Wellwood, for his great fidelity, attention, and prudence in the management of the Fund.

As agreed yesterday, the Assembly proceeded in the consideration of the Report of the Presbytery of Dundee ; and first called Mr David Davidson to the Bar, who appeared accordingly. A Member of Assembly from the Presbytery of Dundee, was heard in continuation, on the Report : And then Mr Davidson was heard for himself : The Assembly after reasoning, agreed to resolve themselves into a Committee of the whole House to proceed further in this Cause immediately on the conclusion of this Diet.

Adjournment.

*Saturday, May 31. 1800. Scff. 9.*

*Sederunt.*

The Report of the Committee of the whole House on the Report from the Presbytery of Dundee, read and approved of : And therefore, agreeably thereto, the Assembly remit the whole of that part of the Report of the Presbytery of Dundee, which respects Mr Davidson, to the said Presbytery, that they may proceed therein as they shall see cause, according to the rules of the Church : Dismiss the Petition and Complaint of the Kirk-session of Dundee as incompetent : and find, That with regard to the Petition of Dr Blinshall, it is unnecessary to remit it to probation, as no charge appears to have been brought against him, that in any degree affects his character. And the Assembly unanimously approve of the fidelity and diligence with which the Presbytery of Dundee executed the laborious business committed to them by last Assembly.

Upon Report of the Committee on Public Accounts, the Assembly authorised the Procurator to pay L. 50 this year out of the Funds of the Church to Mr Spottiswoode, solicitor at London, in order to extinguish part of a balance due to him on account of the appeal relative to the Schoolmaster of Bothwell : And further, to pay to Mr Murray, Agent for the Church, who attended to this Cause for the space of six years, during which he had an extensive correspondence and a great deal of trouble, the sum of Twenty-five Guineas for his own and clerks' trouble.

ABRIDGMENT, 1800.

Act approving of the Account of Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him and his cautioners of the sum of L. 510 : 4 : 1  $\frac{4}{12}$  Sterling, disbursed by him, and appointing that he give credit in his next account for the sum of L. 107 : 11 : 1  $\frac{6}{12}$  Sterling, being the balance due by him.

Act approving of the Account of Mr William Murray, Agent for the Church, and exonerating and discharging him of the sum of L. 154 : 17 : 11  $\frac{6}{12}$  Sterling disbursed by him; and appointing that he take credit in his next account, for the sum of L. 23, 12 s. 11  $\frac{6}{12}$  d. being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the Account of Mr James Dickson, Printer for the Church, and ordering payment of the sum of L. 24 : 5 : 10, being the amount thereof.

Act approving of the Account of Stationary Articles furnished to the Clerks by Mr Elphinton Balfour, and ordering payment thereof.

The Procurator authorised to pay to Mr Alexander Frazer, Minister of Torosay, L. 11 : 19 : 7, being the amount of an account of expences laid out by him anent the designation of a glebe.

The Procurator authorised to pay L. 5 Sterling out of the funds of the Church, for defraying a part of the expence of printing the Report of the Presbytery of Dundee, which came before this Assembly, in respect of the peculiar nature of the case.

A petition for Mr William Milligan, Minister of Kirkden, read. The Assembly remitted the process therein mentioned to the Procurator and Agent for the Church to be carried on at the public expence.

The Report of the Visitors of the Commission Record called for; the Commission's conduct approved of, thanks given to the Moderator of the Commission, and their book ordered to be attested.

See Printed  
Acts, No. VI.

The Report of the Committee for naming Members of the Commission of this Assembly, and preparing instructions to them, given in, and approved. The Assembly added thereto Mr John Inglis, one of the Ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator.

The Report of the Visitors of the Royal Bounty Record given in, and read. The conduct of the Managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

No. VII. A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a Commission and instructions to them.

The Report of the Trustees of the Fund established by Act of Parliament, for a Provision to Ministers' Widows, &c. again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register kept for that purpose.

The Committee on the Enzie fund renewed, with the former powers.

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An Appeal by Mr William Sibbald and Mr James Crichton, Commissioners from the Presbytery of Lochmaben, from a Sentence of the Synod of Dumfries, passed on the 16th of April last, in a cause, wherein the Presbytery had given judgment, being a reference from the Kirk-session of St Mungo, relative to Mr John Irving Bell, or Mr John Bell Irvine at Whitehill, heard : The Assembly unanimously affirmed the Sentence of the Synod of Dumfries, reversing the Sentence of the Presbytery of Lochmaben, remitting the cause to the Presbytery, with instructions to inquire into the truth of the facts alleged as the ground of the Appeal ; and appointing the Appellant to lead a proof of said alleged facts before the Presbytery, and the Presbytery to proceed therein, according to the rules of the Church.

An Appeal by Mr John Nivieson, Minister at Penpont, from a Sentence of the Synod of Dumfries of the 15th October last, in a Libel at the instance of the Presbytery of Penpont against him, charging him with divers immoralities, heard : The Assembly unanimously affirmed the Sentence of the Synod of Dumfries, finding, that the particular charges brought forward in the minor proposition of the Libel in support of the expression in the major proposition, of scandalous, loose and indecent behaviour, should be struck out from the Libel ; and at the same time, leaving it to the Presbytery to inquire into these, or any other facts and circumstances which may tend to prove the Libel. And the Assembly instruct the Presbytery to pay particular attention to the direction given by last Assembly, that no criminal act be admitted to proof within a time not exceeding the period of one year from the date of the Libel : And instruct the Presbytery to admit a proof only of such facts and circumstances tending to support the part of the Libel, found relevant, as fell within the five years from the date of the original Libel.

The Settlement of Inverness, and the Petition of Mr Skene Keith, delayed till Monday.

Adjournment.

Monday, June 2. 1800. *Sess. ult.*

*Sederunt.*

Mr Lapllie withdrew his Petition, dissenting and complaining of a Sentence of the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr of the 8th October last, allowing the Presbytery of Lanark to proceed to the trials of Mr Robert Crawford, Student in Divinity, in order to his being licensed to preach the Gospel.

Reasons of Dissent from the Decision of the Assembly in the case of the Settlement of Kingsbarns were given in, read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*.

Reasons of Dissent from the Judgment of the Assembly respecting the Chapel of Ease at Elgin, were given in, read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*.

The Synod-Book of Lothian and Tweeddale ordered to be Attested.

See Printed  
Acts, No. VIII.  
No. IX.  
No. X.

Upon Report of the Committee appointed to class returns to Overtures, the Assembly ordered these Overtures to be re-transmitted, viz. Overture respecting the attendance of Students on the Divinity Hall: Overture respecting the Course of University Education, &c. and, Overture respecting the Licensing of Probationers. And the Assembly enjoin such Presbyteries as have sent no Reports, to send them to next Assembly.

No. XI. Report of the Committee on Vagrant Teachers and Sunday Schools, given in and read.

No. XII. Recommendation for promoting a Subscription towards defraying the Expence of the Appeal, in the Cause relating to the Schoolmaster of Bothwell; and Order for printing the Appeal Case prepared by the Procurator.

From the Report of the Committee on the Orkney Grievances, the Assembly learn, with much satisfaction, that some of these grievances are in a fair way of being gradually removed. The Committee on this subject renewed, with the same powers as formerly to the Procurator and Agent; and in particular, recommend the Case of the Church of St Andrew's to the attention of the Procurator for aid out of the Funds of the Church, if he shall judge it necessary. And on a motion made, the Assembly added Mr Lapslie to the number of the Committee.

An Appeal at the instance of the Honourable Archibald Fraser of Lovat, Patron, and the Reverend Mr Patrick Grant, Minister of Bolestin and Abertarph, Presentee to the Church and Parish of Inverness, from a Sentence of the Synod of Moray, heard: The Assembly affirm the Sentence of the Synod of Moray, with this variation, That the Presbytery of Inverness shall take the proper steps for the Settlement of Lovat's Presentee, on the first Tuesday of August next, unless the Presbytery shall have raised and executed a Summons of Declarator of their right to present, *tantum jure devoluto*, before that time.

A Petition for William Douglas of Castle-Douglas, Esq; and others, respecting the Erection of a Chapel of Ease at Castle-Douglas, heard. The Assembly remit to the Presbytery of Kirkcudbright, with instructions to send up to the next Assembly a particular Report respecting these three points, viz. An account of the Population of the Parish: What numbers the Parish Church of Kelton will at present contain: and, Whether the Heritors of the Parish will consent that the Petitioners shall be allowed, at their own Expence, to make such an addition to the Parish Church as may be sufficient for their accommodation.

List of Probationers produced, their names read out, and ordered to be recorded.

All

*ABRIDGMENT, 1800.*

All Causes brought before this Assembly, and not decided, referred to the Commission.

A Committee named to revise the Minutes of the Assembly's proceedings at this and all other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of the Assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.

The Minutes of this day's Sederunt were read ; the Minutes of former Sederunts having been read at the diets subsequent thereto.

The Moderator's speech to the Assembly, and to his Grace the Commissioner.

The Lord High Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

Act appointing next diet of Assembly.

See Printed

The Assembly concluded with Prayer, Singing of Psalms, and Acts, No. XIII. pronouncing the Blessing.

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